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THE COLONIAL ISSUE

of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is fixed for April 28. Ever since THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was established nearly fifty years ago it has enjoyed an increasing Colonial and foreign circulation; but, in response to a want in the trade which was felt many years ago, it was decided to bring out a Colonial Issue in the spring, having an extra circulation to the Colonies and other important centres abroad in addition to the home distribution. The first number was brought out in April 1891, and the issue has gained popularity ever since. It brings buyers in remote parts of the Empire into direct contact with the home firms. THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST has from its first issues made a point of developing Colonial trade, and this annual issue, instituted fifteen years ago, has proved one of the best means at the service of the advertising firms for furthering their business interests. There is no other well established and organised *bona-fide* paid subscription circulation to the Colonies such as THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST's available, and it will be included in the Colonial Issue on April 28. The issue will cover most of the buyers (and the best of all) in India, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, and other East Indian places, China, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and other British parts of Africa, as well as British possessions generally. It is an issue that no house desirous of publicity and improvement of their business connection should miss. They should drop a postcard to the Publisher for a convincing booklet about the trade possibilities covered by it.

Summary.

The subjoined paragraphs give the gist of the more important matters in this issue, with the object of showing at a glance what has happened during the week. See also "Contents" in the first column.

THERE is a conundrum for you to answer on p. 424.

THE method of manufacturing electric carbons is explained on p. 423.

SOME wide differences in contracts for disinfectants are the subject of a note on p. 428.

THE question of co-operative stores and income-tax has cropped up in Parliament (p. 437).

DRUG-CONTRACTS made by Boards of Guardians in England and Ireland are noted on pages 413 and 414.

MR. C. C. BELL asks what is meant by the term "Medical prescription" in the Pharmacy Bill (p. 443).

DANVAL, the French ex-convict pharmacist, has not succeeded in getting a revision of his sentence (p. 415).

THERE have been several questions asked in the House of Commons about the drug supply to Irish workhouses (p. 438).

MR. WILLIAM ALLEN has been appointed second examiner in practical pharmacy for the Irish Licence examination (p. 423).

CHEMISTS should be prepared to defend their interests and rights in dental practice is the opinion of correspondents (p. 443).

THE DANGERS of "Pharaoh's serpents' eggs" have been placed before the Manchester public by Mr. Charles Turner (p. 413).

CANDIDATES for the Pharmaceutical Licence examination will in the near future have to pass their Preliminary before apprenticeship (p. 423).

THE Canadian Inland Revenue Authorities have issued a statement of the amount of alcohol in fifteen well-known "patent" medicines (p. 418).

SOME DETAILS of what is done for those employed by the Pharmacie Centrale of France in the way of old age pensions are given by "Xrayser" (p. 425).

A DISPUTE as to the quality of a quantity of geranium oil is being heard in the High Court. We report the case up to four o'clock on Thursday on p. 435.

MR. W. J. HARDY, Belfast, has been co-opted to a seat on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and Mr. Vincent Johnson has been re-elected (p. 422).

THE RAILWAY COMPANIES' claim to change the statutory classification of condensed milk or similar compound preparations has been dropped by the Board of Trade (pp. 413 and 443).

At an evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain Messrs. Farr and Wright continued their papers on powdered extracts, this time dealing with stramonium extract. Mr. E. M. Holmes had some interesting papers on Natal aloes, strophanthus, and cochineal (p. 420).

THE chief event of the week is probably the introduction of the long-expected Government Poisons and Pharmacy Bill. The text of the measure is given on p. 429, and our Parliamentary representative gives some particulars of this Bill and Mr. Winfrey's Pharmacy Bill on p. 437. Our summary of the provisions of the Government Bill begins on p. 426.

AMONG articles which have advanced on the markets are lemon oil, chamomiles, and antimony. Oxalic acid, soy, W.I. tamarinds, and citric acid are firmer; cod-liver oil is hardening; ergot, galls, E.I. coriander, gamboge, and dragon's-blood are easier. Bromides are still unsettled, and quinine is lifeless. The auction of first and second hand drugs is fully reported on p. 441.

Association and Society Business.

The Association President of the week is Mr. A. J. Bellamy, who has recently been elected President of the Cardiff Chemists' Association (p. 431).

At Harrogate (p. 431) a paper by Mr. William Kirkby, on "Standardisation," was read, the Bath chemists (p. 431) decided to contribute to the Federation Parliamentary Fund. At Brighton (p. 431) Mr. Skyrme lectured on South Africa, while at Liverpool (p. 431) a medical man lectured on "Immunity." Guildford (p. 431) concerned itself with price-protection, and Manchester (p. 431) also considered the subject, but from a different point of view. The West Ham chemists held their annual meeting (p. 431), as did also Aberdeen (p. 431). The Pharmacy Bill was the topic at the North Staffs Chemists' Association meeting (p. 432), and the London chemists' assistants had an interesting chat on new therapeutic remedies from Dr. Atkin-Swan (p. 432).

The last item in this section is the report of a lecture by Mr. J. H. Cuff to the Huddersfield chemists on "Chemist-Opticians."

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

Damage amounting to several thousand pounds was caused by a fire on March 9 at chemical-works at Gibb's Wharf, North Woolwich Road.

At Durham Assizes on March 9, Isabella Worthy was found not guilty of trying to poison her husband by putting laudanum in his beer, and was discharged.

At Marylebone Police Court on March 14, Emil Otto Muschik, of 12 Marble Arch, W., was fined 60*l.* with 10*l.* 10*s.* costs, for falsely pretending to be a doctor.

The Grantham Town Council have appointed Mr. F. J. Cheshire, wholesale druggist and drysalter, of 63 Wharf Road, as an overseer for the parish of Spittlegate Without.

At the March sitting of Hastings County Court, Messrs. Neve & Co., chemists, Hastings, were unsuccessful in an action against a Mr. Brewer for 5*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* for goods supplied.

The first business establishment in Southtown, Yarmouth, to be lighted by electricity is that of Mr. T. L. Drabble, pharmaceutical chemist, Bridge Road, whose installation was switched on at the end of last week.

At a meeting of the London County Council on March 13, Mr. R. A. Robinson was selected to serve for the next twelve months on the Finance, Parliamentary, and Rivers Committees, and Mr. T. H. W. Idris was appointed to the Works and the Appeal Committees.

Mr. C. A. Seyler, analyst to the Glamorgan County Council, reports that during the past quarter he examined samples of cream of tartar, oil of almonds, and Friar's balsam, and found them all genuine, but a sample of tincture of capsicum was rather low in solids.

William Watkins was remanded at Brentwood Police Court on March 8, on a charge of burglary at the house of T. J. Hayes, chemist, Warley Common sub-post-office, and stealing postage-stamps, three cheques, one share certificate, one dog-licence, and 5*s.*, together valued at 2*l.* 18*s.*

Five hundred girls employed at the factory of Messrs. Betts & Co., Ltd., manufacturers of metallic capsules, City Road, E.C., struck work early in the week owing to reductions in the rates of wages. Embossers, who were formerly paid 5*l.* per thousand, were cut down to 2*d.* A satisfactory settlement was ultimately arrived at, the girls resuming work at 2½*d.* per thousand.

It is expected that the amalgamation of several important houses in the stationery trade will be foreshadowed at the first annual dinner of the Stationery Proprietary Articles Trade Association, to be held on March 24 at the Hotel Cecil. All the leading manufacturers will be represented at the dinner, and many members of the trade from the provinces will also attend.

At Cardiff on March 8, as a well-known Rugby footballer was pushing a handcart and ladders along Duke Street a motor-car collided with him and knocked him clean through the glass side-door of the shop of Messrs. Morgan & Co., chemists. The frame of the door was smashed and two glass shelves shattered, but the man escaped with a few bruises.

The report of the West Riding analyst—Mr. Scott Smith for the first three months and Mr. F. W. Richardson for the other nine months—for 1905 shows that of 47 samples of glycerin examined 9 were adulterated, of 44 samples of compound liquorice-powder 4 were adulterated, of 41 samples of camphorated oil 1 was adulterated, and of 38 samples of sweet spirit of nitre 15 were adulterated.

Cadbury Brothers, Ltd., are to establish a pension fund for the benefit of their workpeople at Bournville. The fund will be supported by contributions from wages of 2½ per cent. to 5 per cent., and the company will pay to the fund contributions to an equal amount. Pensions are to become payable at the age of sixty. The company propose to inaugurate the scheme by undertaking to pay over to it the sum of 60,000*l.*

At a meeting of the Marylebone Borough Council on

March 8, the Works Committee recommended that Messrs. T. Greenish & Co., chemists, New Street, Dorset Square, be called upon to remove a private lamp standing on the public way in front of the premises. Councillor G. J. Knight, chemist and druggist, opposed the removal, saying the Council had placed near the lamp a large iron box, which was a greater obstruction than the lamp. The Committee's recommendation was, however, adopted.

Teaching Unskilled Labourers.

Messrs. Elliman & Sons have given notice to their unskilled employés that in future on reaching the age of nineteen they will be liable to be summarily dismissed, as it is waste of labour to employ men to do boys' work, and recommending that such workers should utilise their spare time in attending classes, in order to equip themselves as skilled workers in other fields after their dismissal. This has been brought to the notice of the Slough Higher Education Committee by Messrs. Elliman in a letter suggesting that classes for unskilled workers should be provided. When the matter was discussed at a meeting of the committee, Mr. Bartlett said that it seemed to him that Mr. Elliman was desirous of having young men working for him as unskilled labourers, and when he had had all out of them that was possible in the way of work, he left it to the ratepayers to teach such workmen a skilled trade. He regarded the suggestion as absurd. Eventually the consideration of the matter was adjourned.

Midland Notes.

It is interesting to note that the assistant pathologist of St. Mary's Hospital, who had charge of the rhubarb-poisoning case in Fulham, is the son of Mr. James Spilsbury, F.I.C., a pharmacist of Birmingham.

Mr. Alderman Clayton, Ph.C., who has charge of Birmingham's purse-strings, has entered a crusade against extravagant committees, and states that, as far as rates go, there is already a rod in pickle for the unfortunate ratepayer.

There died at the age of seventy-eight, at Winson Green last Saturday, an interesting personage. He was a prison warder at the Birmingham Gaol, and during his leisure hours, with the assistance of Mr. Taylor, then (1861) dispenser at the prison, he qualified as a dispenser, and upon the death of the official, many years ago, he was at once selected to fill the vacancy, retiring upon a pension, after thirty-three years' service, in 1894.

The Unqualified Seller.

At Wolverhampton on March 13, a woman named Fallon was charged with attempting to commit suicide by taking poison. The Chief Constable said the woman, who had been drinking heavily, obtained some rat-poison, with which she nearly killed herself. The bottle was labelled "Poison," and it had the name of a London chemist upon it. Dr. Hamp (one of the Magistrates) wanted to know where prisoner obtained the poison. Agnes Walters, a drysalter, carrying on business at Lower Horseley Fields, said she sold the poison to the defendant, who told her it was wanted for destroying rats.

The Chief Constable: Are you in the habit of selling poison to everybody who comes and asks for it?

Witness: It was only a pennyworth.

The Chief Constable: Did you see that it was labelled "Poison"?

Witness: Yes.

The Chief Constable then said that some time ago they had a somewhat similar case, and unless the thing was altered he would have to bring the matter before the Public Prosecutor—encouraging people to take poison after drinking turns, and placing no restriction upon the purchase. This poison, he added, was not scheduled. Such articles were made up as rat-poisons, and any drunken fool, any idiot, could go and buy them for a penny. It was scandalous. He asked for a remand for a week, and in the meantime he should make inquiries as to the sale of the poison.

Dr. Hamp: It seems to me that the Act is not any good?

The Chief Constable thought not. He further mentioned that there was stuff sold for cleaning gloves, and for 2*d.* people could buy a poison sufficient to kill them in five minutes. They could not go and buy strychnine, or poisons

of that description, in a similar way. Ultimately the defendant was remanded for a week.

No Change.

At the Board of Trade Offices (Railway Department), Whitehall Gardens, on February 21, before Sir Herbert Jekyll, K.C.M.G., application was made by the railway companies of the United Kingdom for the inclusion in Class 5 of the statutory classification of the following entry :

Condensed or compound preparations (other than preparations of milk and flour) for human food c.o.h.p.

This application was opposed by counsel on behalf of Bovril, Ltd., and Virol, Ltd., while representatives from other opposing firms, including Lipton Ltd., Burroughs Wellcome & Co., Ridge's Food, Ltd., Benger's Food, Ltd., Mellin's Food, Ltd., and the P.A.T.A., were also present. A counter-application was made on behalf of Bovril, Ltd., to place virol in Class 2. Considerable argument was heard on both sides, and the case was taken to consideration. Sir Herbert Jekyll has now intimated to the parties that the Board of Trade, "after careful consideration, have decided not to proceed with either of the applications, the description of the articles proposed to be classified being in each case too vague." (See also p. 443.)

Manchester Notes.

At a meeting of the Manchester Branch of the National Union of Shop-assistants, it was stated that the average market-price of a shop-assistant is only 3*d.* per hour, or 23*s.* 11*d.* per week of seventy, eighty, or even a hundred hours, while there are firms with from 200 to 218 branches, some of which pay dividends of 70 per cent.

Alderman Robert Gibson, the genial Chairman of the Manchester Gas Committee, has preached the doctrine of reductions in the price of gas for years. At the last meeting of the City Council he was rewarded by getting a reduction of 3*d.* per 1,000 cubic feet in the price of gas supplied through gas-engines for power-purposes; and a concession empowering the Gas Committee to receive and consider applications from consumers who use gas for manufacturing-purposes only.

Referring to the question of poisonous sweetmeats which has been attracting local attention, Mr. Charles Turner, principal of the Manchester College of Pharmacy, writes to the "Manchester Guardian" cautioning confectioners, and particularly small shopkeepers, of the danger they run in selling "pythons' eggs" or "Pharaoh's serpents' eggs," which, when burnt, produce a "serpent." These, he states, consist of sulphocyanide of mercury, and are deadly poison; they have been added during the past year to the list of scheduled poisons which may only be sold legally by properly qualified chemists, and for every sale the unqualified seller is liable to a fine of 5*l.* He advises that the police take action in the matter (the wholesale dealers, he says, seem most culpable), for there is no label to indicate the poisonous nature of the "eggs," one pennyworth of which would be ample to kill two or three children.

The "Manchester Evening News" had an article last week on the impending struggle between the P.A.T.A. and the co-operative societies. The co-operators, says the "News," are fighting for the principle that they have a right to sell at the same prices as the private concern next door, and are as much entitled to divide the profits among their members as the private concern has to divide its profits between its shareholders or partners. As the co-operative societies' total turnover is somewhere about sixty millions sterling per annum, the "News" thinks it looks rather a forlorn hope for the manufacturers, but adds that the latter evidently do not share that view. Articles doubtless "just as good" in many instances as the advertised article in popular demand could be manufactured, and no one need be surprised if the co-operators should meet as far as they can a want the manufacturers decline to supply.

Mr. Abraham Flatters, F.R.M.S., has made the interesting communication to the Manchester Microscopical Society that the cereals are self-pollinated instead of wind-pollinated as hitherto believed. Mr. Flatters' investigations extend over a period of fourteen years, during which he has made thousands of preparations, and the sections shown by him under the microscope were taken from the sheath of the growing plant, some ten days or a fortnight prior to the

natural time for the spike to emerge. The specimens were dissected out in the field and placed direct into chromo-acetic solution for fixation. The results fully proved that pollination of cereals takes place at least several days before the opening of the glumes to liberate the anthers. The pollen scattered by the wind is merely the surplus product remaining in the anthers after they are liberated. Mr. Flatters also urges as proof of self pollination that black and white oats have been growing side by side for a thousand summers, and still no distinct variations, or even mixtures, of these types are found. In the review of Mr. Flatters' book on "Methods in Microscopical Research" (*C. & D.*, January 27), it will be remembered, it was stated that the slides illustrating the pollination of the wheat were something quite unique.

Chemists' Licences.

At Brighton, on March 6, the off wine-licences held by Messrs. Headlands, Ltd., were transferred from 53 North Street to 59 North Street; from 12 London Road to 129 London Road; and from 90 Western Road to 140*a* Western Road.

Two applications for wine-licences by chemists have been refused during the past week, one being that of Mr. Daniel Hughes, chemist and druggist, of Mold, and the other the application by the Timothy White Co., Ltd., for their premises at Market Place, Hitchin.

At the Leeds adjourned Brewster Sessions on March 8, the Chief Constable informed the Bench that complaints had been made of local chemists violating the privilege granted them in respect of the sale of medicated wines, and he intimated that if such abuse continued he intended opposing the renewal of the licences concerned at the next Brewster Sessions. Major Torry added that he found there were 29 chemists' licences in the city, 21 of which were for wine (off) and 10 of that number were for medicated wines. He did not think that it could be the intention of the Justices that those chemists should be at liberty to sell all kinds of wines in the way he had indicated. Subsequently an application made on behalf of Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., for permission to sell medicated wines at their premises in Guildford Street and Long Road was granted. Mr. Arthur Vint made a similar application, which was opposed by a solicitor representing the divisional secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, on the ground that, Mr. Vint not being a chemist and druggist, the Society thought that if there was a semi-medical character about the medicated-wine business it was necessary for the vendor to be fully qualified by examination to undertake it. Mr. Vint explained that he served his apprenticeship with a chemist, and was the manager of a chemist's shop for twenty-two years. The application was granted.

East Anglian Notes.

A large collection of valuable old china and pottery ware, accumulated by the late Mr. J. H. Gostling, pharmaceutical chemist, Halesworth, has just been disposed of by public auction.

That hardy annual the Hunstanton Town dinner was held last week. Mr. E. Wright, chemist, replying to the toast of "Prosperity to the Town and Trade," said the inhabitants must depend principally upon their proverbially good climate as chief asset in attracting visitors. Mr. Wright also advocated tree-planting in the streets.

Mrs. J. de Carle Smith last week made quite a lengthy and most interesting speech at a Mayoral "At Home" in connection with the Norwich Orphans' Home, of which she is Hon. Treasurer. Mrs. de Carle Smith sketched the history of the Home from its inception, and made an earnest appeal for financial help.

Contracts.

Further contracts have been entered into as follows :

Beckenham Urban District Council.—Messrs. Burt, Boulton, & Haywood, Ltd., for carbolic-acid disinfectant, and the Sanitas Co., Ltd., for Sanitas.

Bethnal Green Borough Council.—For the annual supply of disinfectants, etc. : Messrs. Adcock, Easton & Co., Finsbury Park, N. : 95-per-cent. carbolic acid, 10*d.* per gal.; 30-per-cent. crude carbolic acid, 6*d.* per gal.; 20-per-cent. prepared carbolic acid, 5½*d.* per gal.; sulphur candles, 16*s.* per cwt. Sanitas Co., Ltd., Limehouse, E. : 15-per-cent.

carbolic powder, 2s. 6d. per cwt.; Sanitas powder, No. 2, 6s. 6d. per cwt.; Sanitas fluid, 3s. 6d. per gal.; Creocide, 2s. 6d. per gal. Newton, Chambers & Co., Ltd., 331 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.: Izal fluid (8-oz. bottles), 3l. 12s. per gross; Izal disinfecting-powder, No. 1, 6s. 6d. per cwt.; ditto, No. 2, 10s. per cwt.; Izal disinfecting-sawdust, 7s. 6d. per cwt.

Cambridge Board of Guardians.—Mr. R. Sturton, chemist and druggist, Cambridge, for drugs.

Chesterton Board of Guardians.—Mr. R. Sturton, chemist and druggist, Cambridge, for quinine and cod-liver oil.

Dartford Board of Guardians.—Messrs. Dallett & Co., Putney, for the supply of disinfectants, and Messrs. T. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C., for drugs and druggists' sundries.

Dorking Board of Guardians.—Mr. F. W. Doubleday, chemist and druggist, for drugs.

Marlow Urban Council.—Mr. H. Harman, chemist and druggist, Great Marlow, for disinfectants.

New Romney Town Council.—Sanitas Co., Ltd., for disinfectants, at 26s. 3d. per cwt.

Tadcaster Board of Guardians.—Messrs. Hirst, Brooke & Hirst, Ltd., Leeds, for drugs.

Yarmouth Board of Guardians.—Mr. T. J. Woodcock, chemist, Church Plain, for cod-liver oil 4s. per gal., in pints 7d.; quinine, 1s. per oz.; crushed linseed meal, 13s. 6d. per cwt.; olive oil, 4s. per gal.; trusses, 1s. 2d. each single, and 1s. 8d. double. Drugs varied from 22½ per cent. to 5 per cent. discount on list.

The Hardened Herbalist.

The adjourned inquest touching the death of a married woman named Mary Thomas was held at Cefn on March 13 by Dr. W. R. Jones, the district Coroner. Mr. Rhys Charles, county analyst, Neath, wrote that, after making a long and careful analysis for alkaloids and metals, he had come to the conclusion that the stomach did not contain any. There was no trace of phosphorus, cyanide, or any other poisonous body. Bottles submitted to him contained in one case a weak solution of pennyroyal, and in another a mixture of bark, aloes, and myrrh; but he could not detect any ergot. A packet found near the body of deceased contained a powder, in which were a number of berries. The powder consisted chiefly of borax with a small quantity of organic matter, while the berries were the seeds of *Abrus precatorius*, which contained a poisonous body called abrium. In the parts of the stomach sent to him he failed to trace any sign of these. Dr. Francis Flood said, from the analysis and from what he had discovered, he concluded that death was due to gastric ulcer and general peritonitis, probably produced by irritating drugs. Arthur Roberts, the herbalist who had admitted selling certain things to the deceased, was asked if he had prescribed pennyroyal, to which he replied in the affirmative. He also admitted having prescribed chloroform, which, he said, "comes from herbs," although he did not name the herb. The Coroner cross-examined Roberts closely as to what he prescribed the pennyroyal for. He retorted that all the pennyroyal in the world would not produce miscarriage. The Coroner said the facts as revealed by the analysis were sufficient to enable Roberts to evade the law. The inquiry would, he hoped, be a serious and solemn warning. Credulous women were very much imposed upon by men of this character, and it was not only among the poorer classes that this was so, but it occurred among the highest ladies in the land who wanted to escape motherhood. The jury, in returning a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, desired the Coroner to censure Roberts. The Coroner said he was afraid that anything he could say would not have much effect upon a hardened spirit like Roberts.

THE REASON.—A well-known Liverpool pharmaceutical chemist recently explained to a representative of the "Liverpool Post" why expert dispensers are becoming a decreasing number. While the conditions of entering the profession are yearly more exacting, the rewards, he said, tend to grow less certain. The protection of the retail chemist is virtually limited to the privilege of selling a few poisons, none of which he wishes to sell, because the danger is great and the profit infinitesimal. For example, the sale of twopennyworth of belladonna lately cost an assistant a day at the Coroner's Court, two days at the Police Court, and most of a week at the Assizes, the total costs awarded to him being about 10s.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

More Damage.

Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Ltd., have had an ornamental lamp in front of their Upper Baggott Street shop damaged to the extent of 15l. through a van being backed on to the pavement.

Medicine-contracts.

The Irish Boards of Guardians are giving out the contracts for 1906 for the supplies of medicines and medical and surgical appliances. The following acceptances are announced:

	Medicines	Appliances
Ballinrobe ...	Boyers & Co. (Sligo)	Clarke & Co. (Dublin)
Ballycastle ...	J. Clarke & Co.	B. Clarke & Sons
Birr ...	Golden & Co. (Birr)	Fannin & Co.
Coleraine ...	Sumner & Co. (Liverpool)	Fannin & Co. (Dublin)
Cookstown ...	Sumner & Co., 33½%	Connor & Sons, 35%
Derry ...	Clarke & Co. (Belfast)	Connor & Sons
Fermoyl ...	Boileau & Boyd	S. Bell (trusses)
Granard ...	Boileau & Boyd	Fannin & Co.
Kenmare ...	Cork Chemical & Drug Co., 26%	Sumner & Co.
Killarney ...	Boileau & Boyd, 28½%	Sumner & Co., 32½%
Lisburn ...	J. Clarke & Co.	Fannin & Co., 34%
Middleton ...	Cork Medical & Drug Co., 27½%	B. Clarke & Sons
N. Dublin ...	Boileau & Boyd, 37½%	Cork Chemical Co., 27½%
Newtownards ...	Clarke & Co., 33½%	Fannin & Co. and Smith & Sheppard, 35%
Omagh ...	Clarke & Co. (Belfast)	Connor & Sons, 35%
Thurles ...	Boileau & Boyd, 28½%	Connor & Sons (Newry)
Tralee ...	Boileau & Boyd, 28½%	Fannin & Co., 34%
		Fannin & Co., 34%

At the meeting of the Newry Board it was announced that the firms which offered the highest percentages off the Local Government Board's prescribed prices were Sumner & Co., of Liverpool, 35 per cent., and John Clarke & Co., Belfast, 33½ per cent. The Board, by a large majority, decided to accept the latter tender, and also that of Messrs. Connor & Son, Newry, for appliances, at a discount of 37½ per cent. off the standard list.

At Bandon (co. Cork) Board of Guardians, Messrs. Sumner & Co., Liverpool, tendered for both medicines and appliances at 33½ per cent. off. The Clerk stated that he should enter every tender in the minutes for submission to the Local Government Board, notwithstanding the statement in the Guardians' advertisement that they would only consider tenders from Irish firms. The Guardians decided to accept the tender of the Cork Chemical and Drug Co. (27½ per cent. off) for medicines, and that of Messrs. Fannin & Co., of Dublin, for appliances (30 per cent. off).

At the Mountmellick (Queen's Co.) Board of Guardians, the tender of Messrs. Sumner & Co., of Liverpool, for medicines, offered 30 per cent. off standard list prices; while that of Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, of Dublin, offered 28½ per cent. off. The Guardians accepted the latter, and asked the Local Government Board to sanction same on the ground that Messrs. Boileau & Boyd trade in Dublin and give employment in the city, where distress is so pronounced. The Guardians also suggested, in view of the large percentages offered by the tenders, that the Local Government Board should revise the price list. The tender of Messrs. Fannin & Co., of Dublin, for appliances (being the lowest, 34 per cent. off) was accepted.

MANGANESE ORE.—Supplementary to the information given in our issue of March 3, p. 355, we now learn that the demand for manganese ore in the United States has grown to such proportions that several of the properties in Leadville, Colorado, known to contain this class of ore will soon be put into active operation. A mill is being erected by the Damascus Mining and Milling Co., which is stated to have a capacity for dealing with 100 tons of ore a day.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

The Kinninmont Prize.

The annual competition for the prize founded by the late Mr. Kinninmont takes place in June. The subjects are botany, magnetism, and electricity. In tendering, candidates should communicate with the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. W. L. Currie, 293 Byres Road, Dowanhill, Glasgow, who will supply a syllabus. Entries for this year's competition close on the last day of April.

Fire.

A disastrous fire occurred on March 7, at the Persley Mill Works, near Aberdeen, owned by the Ogilvie Oil, Colour, and Chemical Co., Ltd. Before the flames were subdued damage to the amount of between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.* was done to plant, stock, and buildings, and a workman was severely burned.

Velasquez in Dundee.

Mr. James Russell, chemist and druggist, and well known as an art collector, has created some interest in Dundee by placing on exhibition a fine example of Velasquez. The picture represents "The Idiot of Coria," and is believed to be a duplicate by that artist of one of a series of eight portraits he made of dwarfs and eccentrics at the Court of Philip IV. These eight pictures are now collected in the Prado at Madrid. The painting, which is in good condition, and is in an ornamental frame of Spanish design, is said to have been brought to Dundee by a jute merchant whose art collection was dispersed about twenty years ago. Mr. Russell secured it then, and is to be congratulated on being the possessor of such a fine work of art.

Wishing him Luck.

Mr. John Junor, chemist, Inverness, who is leaving the town, as reported in the *C. & D.* last week, was entertained by his *confères* at the Queen's Gate Hotel on the evening of March 8. Mr. John Fraser occupied the chair, and paid a well-deserved tribute to the many good qualities possessed by the guest of the evening. Mr. Connan, on behalf of the company, presented Mr. Junor with the new edition of "Remington's Pharmacy," and referred to the excellent services which Mr. Junor had rendered as secretary of the Chemists' Association in Inverness. On Friday night a representative gathering assembled in the Glenalbyn Hotel and presented Mr. Junor with a travelling rug and a gold chain and pendant, as tokens of the esteem in which he was held. Mr. C. A. Macdonald, solicitor, presided, and Mr. Glass made the presentation. Mr. Junor acknowledged the gift in a witty speech.

The Week's Poisonings.

NINE deaths from poisoning have been reported during the past week, five being suicides, one a misadventure, and the others indefinite. In two instances prussic acid was the cause of death. One victim was Dr. Davies, a Prestatyn surgeon, who was found dead with a bottle labelled "spirit of camphor," but which had contained prussic acid, by his side. The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure, but the Coroner disagreed with the finding, saying it was not borne out by the evidence. Miss Lydia Royce (42) was found dead in her bed at Jersey High School for Girls (of which she was the principal). An empty bottle smelling strongly of prussic acid was found beside the body. A misadventure occurred at Sandycove, near Kinsale, where John Desmond, a well-known farmer, drank carbolic acid in mistake for whisky. Mary Ann Staddon (62), of Ilfracombe, poisoned herself with carbolic acid; and so did Miss Robina Morrison (35), a lady of independent means, in a Piccadilly club. John Owens (55), who had suffered from heart disease, dyspepsia, and insomnia, poisoned himself at St. John's Wood with chloro-lyne. George John James Orley (60), a Civil Service pensioner, who lived at Landport, took a solution of potassium cyanide. Spirit of salt was the cause of two deaths. John Thomas Hiscocks (29), of Birmingham, drank a large quantity with suicidal purpose; and Frank Fox (40), of Brighton, did the same.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

CARTHAGINIAN PHARMACY RELICS.—A French missionary who has been making archeological excavations in the necropolis of Rabs (Carthage) writes:

We found little rose-coloured cones which were simply madder lacquer in lozenge form. This, imported by the Greeks from the East, was used as face-powder. The Carthaginians used these drugs as skilfully as modern pharmacists. We also found ointment-pots, feeding-bottles (often decorated with a pair of eyes), perfume-burners, etc.

HELIUM IN MINERAL-WATER.—M. Charles Moureu, Assistant Professor at the Paris Superior School of Pharmacy, made a communication recently to the Academy of Sciences here which attracted some attention. He has found that in many mineral springs the water contains an infinitesimal trace of helium with traces of radium. If this radio-activity is characteristic of medicinal waters it must largely escape in bottling, and M. Moureu's communication seems to prove that the idea of drinking the waters on the spot is infinitely preferable.

THE PARIS MUNICIPAL LABORATORY has hitherto classed samples submitted under three heads: "good," "bad," and "passable." When the laboratory was founded a select committee composed of MM. Wurtz, Girard, Schloesing, Pasteur, and Bouchardat decided that it was useless to state chemically the results of analysis, as this would be rarely comprehensible to the interested parties. After careful consideration of other terms ("comestible," "nuisible," "non-comestible," etc.) the three simple adjectives as above were selected. Now M. Girard has asked the Municipal Council to suppress the term "passable" and class all as "good" or "bad," and the Council has agreed. It appears that the number of samples declared passable is too many to be creditable to Parisian commerce. It may also be mentioned that the mention "good" implies the repayment of the value of the sample to the inquirer, that of "passable" one half, and "bad" samples get nothing.

DANVAL, THE EX-CONVICT PHARMACIST.—The Supreme Court of France, the Court of Cassation, gave judgment last week in the case of the application by M. Danval, the ex-convict pharmacist, for a revision of the sentence by which he was condemned to hard labour for life on May 10, 1878, on the charge of poisoning his wife. Danval was pardoned by the President of the French Republic in 1902, after twenty-four years of a convict's life in New Caledonia. He returned to Paris, and since then, with the aid of a newspaper here that took up his case, he has been agitating for a revision of the sentence. The question the Court of Cassation had before it was to decide whether any additional fact has come to light which might justify revision, and several leading French scientific experts—MM. Brouardel, Moissan, Ogier, and Pouchet—were charged with drawing up a report on the subject. They stated that at the present day it is accepted as a scientific fact that arsenic is found normally in the human body as well as in that of animals, which, although brought forward as an argument, was not acknowledged at the original trial. But the normal dose of arsenic under such conditions is infinitesimal, and the quantity found by the experts in 1878 in the organs of Mme. Danval was much larger. The present experts admit that accidental poisoning by arsenic may be due to natural causes actually unknown to science, but no such accidental cause is put forward in support of the appeal for revision that would explain the quantity of arsenic found in the viscera of Mme. Danval twenty-eight years ago. The fact that arsenic is to be found normally in the bodies of man and animals is principally due to the researches of Dr. Gautier; but he finds that when it so exists it is never in the liver or spleen, whereas it was precisely in those two portions of Mme. Danval's body that the presence of the largest quantity of arsenic was found in 1878. After reviewing the new evidence in support of the appeal, the Court of Cassation finally decided that no "new fact" in a legal sense had been brought forward, and that, if doubt may subsist regarding M. Danval's culpability, nothing sufficiently precise had been shown to warrant a revision of the original sentence.

Australasian News.

Communicated by the Australian Staff of "The Chemist and Druggist."

New South Wales.

"TANGLEFOOT" STICKY FLY-PAPERS.—The decision of the High Court at Sydney on October 31, 1905, was that "Tanglefoot" sticky fly-papers are entitled to be admitted into Australia as insecticides, and not as Manila paper, which latter carries a higher Customs-duty. The Customs authorities gave notice of appeal, and then announced that the appeal would not be proceeded with. Markell & Co., the importers, applied to have the cases of fly-papers about which the law-suit was held passed, and the application was granted. All other cases, however, have been held up for higher duty, which implies that a fresh law-suit is needed for each consignment of "Tanglefoot" fly-papers—an extraordinary state of affairs.

Queensland.

"LIVERETS" TRADE-MARK.—A trade-mark case which has been pending for some time has been brought to a conclusion, after a hearing extending over two days. The parties concerned were Mr. Francis Joseph Lennon, chemist, of Rockhampton, and Mr. Laurence Arthur Cohen, trading as Merit & Co., of London. Both parties claimed the right to the trade-mark "Liverets" as a name applicable to a certain pharmaceutical preparation, and both had applied to register the word as a trade-mark. A considerable amount of evidence was tendered on each side, which related mainly to the advertisement of the word in Queensland, as it appeared that neither had been an actual user of the word. After reviewing the several objections which had been raised, and hearing arguments on both sides, the Commissioner of Trade-marks, Mr. G. H. Neighbour, K.C., gave his decision in favour of Mr. Lennon, and ordered him to be registered as proprietor of the trade-mark in question.

South Australia.

A.P.C.—The arrangements for the Australian Pharmaceutical Conference are in charge of a committee of the Pharmaceutical Council of South Australia. The Conference is to be held in Adelaide next January, at the same time as the meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science. Pharmacists attending the Conference are recommended to subscribe to the A.A.A.S., so as to obtain the considerable rebates on railway and steamboat fares which are granted to members of the Association. The subscription to the A.A.A.S. is 1*l*. The last Conference was held in Melbourne in 1886, but a conference of examiners of the various Pharmacy Boards held in 1903 recalled the usefulness of a general conference and led to the decision to hold a meeting in 1907.

Western Australia.

LOCAL POISON-PLANTS have been submitted to scientific investigation by Mr. E. A. Mann, the Government Analyst and Chemist to the Department of Agriculture. He has had the help of Dr. W. H. Ince. An account of the research has been communicated, in a conjoint paper to the Royal Society of London, through Sir William Ramsay. The State has been prepared to give away the lands upon which these poison-plants grow on condition that the poisonous plants are eradicated within thirty years. Some fifty species are supposed to be more or less poisonous. The most deadly are in the sub-order *Papilionaceae*. From a species of *Gastrolobium* a poisonous alkaloid has been obtained in quantity not exceeding 0.25 per cent., and named "cygnine," in honour of the old name of the State, the Swan River Settlement. A new acid, a vegetable gelatinoid, and a new sugar have also been obtained during the six months' investigation. A dose of cygnine equivalent to 0.0094 gram per kilogram of body-weight was sufficient to kill a guinea-pig with violent convulsions and the heart greatly engorged, symptoms resembling those caused by strychnine. Experiments are to be made to ascertain the best method of treating animals suffering from this poison. Professor Bottomley, of King's College, London, has arranged for an examination to be made by Dr. Dixon, head of the Pharmacological College, Cambridge, and a parcel of the plant is being sent to England.

South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

Note.—"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of all the Pharmaceutical Societies in British South Africa, viz.:

South African Pharmaceutical Association.
Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony.
Natal Pharmaceutical Society.
Transvaal Pharmaceutical Society.
Rhodesia Pharmaceutical Society.
Northern District Chemists' Association.
Pharmaceutical Society of Orange River Colony.

Cape Colony.

MESSRS. G. W. ALLEN & Co., chemists, Howick, Cape Colony, are now trading as "John Bell & Co."

A FIRE occurred on the premises of the Colonial Chemical Co., Sea Street, Cape Town, on February 20. The prompt arrival of the fire-brigade prevented much damage being done, although at one time it threatened to assume serious proportions. The loss is estimated at about 200*l*., the premises, but not the stock, being covered by insurance.

ADDITIONS TO THE REGISTER.—The Colonial Secretary, acting upon the recommendation of the Colonial Pharmacy Board, has issued licences to the following gentlemen, authorising them to practise in Cape Colony as chemists and druggists: John S. C. Hargus (Cape Colony 1905); Arthur B. Bull (Cape Colony 1902); John Murdoch (Minor 1901), late of Dumfries, N.B.; John Percy Green (Minor 1900), formerly of Stockport; Arthur H. Nowell (Minor 1902), late of Birmingham; John H. Carter (Minor 1904).

PHARMACY ACT CASE.—The case reported last week (p. 366), in which J. E. Morgan and H. Schwabacher were charged with practising as chemists without the necessary licences, was resumed on February 16, at the First Criminal Court, Cape Town. Morgan was committed for trial, bail to the amount of 25*l*. being allowed. The second accused was discharged, as there was no evidence against him. A statement was handed in from Morgan to the effect that there was usually a licensed chemist on the premises where he was employed, and that he thought he was there when the prescription upon which the prosecution is based was dispensed.

A NEW CAPE INDUSTRY.—That the recent appeal made by the Cape Treasurer to foreign manufacturers to open factories in South Africa, if they wished to retain our trade (comments a Johannesburg contemporary), has not been made in vain is evident from the fact that a large Australian firm of patent-medicine manufacturers is opening an establishment at Cape Town. Three hundred and forty large cases of plant and adjuncts have arrived from Australia; and, though all the chief officials have also been imported from that country, it is expected that the industry will make not inconsiderable demands on the Cape labour-supply. The immediate reason for the step is, doubtless, the heavy Customs Union tax on imported patent medicines—viz., 25 per cent. *ad valorem*.

SALE OF POISONS IN CAPE TOWN.—In connection with what is locally known as "the Basson tragedy," evidence has been adduced regarding the sale of chloroform which has aroused considerable indignation among chemists, owing to the wrong impression it has created upon the general public. During the inquest on a farmer whose body was discovered buried on Basson's premises, and whom it is alleged he murdered, after having first drugged him, it was shown by the police that 1 oz. of chloroform had been purchased from a local chemist by the murderer. The assistant who supplied it recognised the purchaser Basson from a photograph, and stated that he signed the poison-book as "J. Smith," saying that he wanted the drug for poisoning seals. The address he gave was simply "The Island." The Magistrate, examining the poison-book produced, pointed out that the witness had signed as the person introducing the purchaser, and asked if this was the usual practice, to which the witness replied, "Yes." The Magistrate thereupon remarked "that if this was the case, the entry of the sale of poisons was merely an empty form," and intimated that more would be heard of the matter. This has called forth a

letter in the local Press, signed "Chemist and Druggist," which voices the general opinion of the trade on the subject. The writer denies that it is the general custom for chemists to evade the Act by adding their assistant's signature as the introducer. He also points out that, chloroform being in Part 2 of the Poison Schedule, the Act does not require an entry in the poison-register. Unfortunately, an erroneous impression has already got about among the general public, owing to the publicity given to the case by the local Press, and it is felt by chemists that other steps should be taken to remove the stigma unjustly attaching to them.

THE CAPE CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—The necessity for periodical discussion among analytical chemists regarding the best methods of analysis, the means of detecting adulteration, and the standards for interpreting analytical results in respect of wines and spirits, has been the means of creating a new association in the Colony. Mr. Charles F. Juritz, Senior Government Analyst, took the matter up with characteristic energy, with the result that at a meeting held in the Chemical Laboratory of the South African College, Cape Town, on February 9, with Dr. Marloth in the chair, it was unanimously agreed to found the "Cape Chemical Society." The first Council was elected as follows: President, Professor B. de St. Jean Van der Riet, Ph.D., M.A. (Professor of Chemistry at Victoria College, Stellenbosch); Vice-President, Mr. H. C. L. Bloxam (analyst and consulting chemist, of Messrs. Heynes, Mathew & Co., Cape Town); Secretary, Mr. C. F. Juritz, M.A. (Senior Government Analyst, Cape Town); Mr. G. N. Blackshaw, B.Sc., F.C.S. (Lecturer in Chemistry at the Government Agricultural College, Elsenburg), and Dr. H. Tietz, Ph.D., M.A. (Acting Professor of Chemistry at the South African College, Cape Town). The following were enrolled as "Foundation members" of the Society: The members of the Council, together with Dr. R. Marloth, Ph.D., M.A., Mr. H. Evans, Mr. J. Lewis, M.A., Mr. St. C. O. Sinclair, M.A., Mr. J. G. Rose, Mr. R. Santhagens, Professor P. D. Hahn, Ph.D., M.A. (Professor of Chemistry at the South African College, Cape Town), Professor J. Martin, M.A. (Professor of Chemistry at the Diocesan College, Rondebosch), Professor G. E. Cory, M.A., F.C.S. (Professor of Chemistry at Rhodes University College, Grahamstown), Mr. R. Dubois, B.Sc., F.C.S., Dr. D. du Toit Malherbe, Mr. F. S. Green, and Mr. J. Muller, B.A.

Natal.

A NEW BUSINESS.—Mr. Tyson is about to open business at Greyville, Durban, within a stone's throw of the old-established business of Mr. W. O. G. Trehair. Mr. Tyson recently went to Natal from the Transvaal.

NATAL IS STILL UNDER MARTIAL LAW, writes a Durban correspondent under date February 19, though the necessity of such an extreme measure is not evident to "the man in the street." The natives appear to have quieted down, though there is still evident a strong undercurrent of discontent.

THE COAST CHEMISTS are still being kept busy with malaria. It seems to be not uncommon to have prescriptions for fifty, a hundred, or a gross cachets of quinine. The doses ordered most frequently are 5-grain, 7-grain, and 10-grain. The hydrochloride salt is in as much demand as the sulphate, and Howards' is the make now invariably ordered by the medical fraternity, owing, it is said, to the fact that the quinine salts recently put on the market by another well-known London firm have been found inferior in therapeutic value to Howards' brand.

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS CONFERENCE.—A Reuter's telegram from Pietermaritzburg, dated March 12, states that the Conference now sitting there is expected to agree to a moderately increased protective tariff granting each Colony the right to impose special duties within its own borders. The Transvaal is opposed to the increased cost of living which will thereby be entailed, but the reply of the Coast Colonies to this objection is that the Transvaal should reduce the railway rates. Sub-committees are considering the questions of the Customs and railway rates.

Transvaal.

MR. J. FERNIE, chemist and druggist, intends to open a pharmacy shortly at Caroline.—Mr. A. H. Jones, Braamfont-

tein, will shortly open a branch establishment at Brixton, a western suburb of Johannesburg.

PERSONAL.—Mr. E. S. Corke, whose recent marriage is reported in another column, is a son of Mr. E. Corke, of Titchhurst, Sussex, and a nephew of Mr. J. T. Birkbeck, chemist, Lincoln. Mr. Corke went out to South Africa as a dispenser in the R.A.M.C. six years ago. At the conclusion of hostilities he joined the staff of Mr. W. Brereton, Durban, Natal. Since his arrival in Johannesburg, nearly two years ago, he has been with Mr. D. L. Behrmann, of the Royal Pharmacy, Rissik Street.

DUTY ON TINCTURES.—At Johannesburg, on February 16, three local chemists had a semi-private interview with the Transvaal delegates to the Customs Conference, which was opened at Pietermaritzburg on March 8. The delegates present were the Colonial Secretary (Mr. P. Duncan, C.M.G.), the Colonial Treasurer (Mr. W. Hichens), Sir George Farrar, M.L.C., the Director of Customs (Mr. J. W. Honey), and Mr. J. A. Nesser, Mayor of Potchefstroom. The chemist representatives were Messrs. R. Butters, J. H. Dinwoodie, and C. Keir. The deputation explained to the delegates that they were quite satisfied with the Customs duties as they stood at present, but desired to know whether there was any intention to alter the rates, especially those which applied to spirituous medicines. Mr. Honey said he did not think there would be any alteration on patent medicines or packed goods, but seeing that some tinctures could be used by native labourers as a beverage a duty might be imposed on them. The deputation asked where in such a contingency they were to get their tinctures? If they were to be prohibited from importing that class of goods from overseas, they did not wish to be compelled to buy the products of the Coast Colonies. The chemists were assured that they would be placed on as fair a basis as any other South African colony for manufacturing tinctures, etc., by being allowed to buy Transvaal-made spirit in bond, and also permitted to make tinctures in bond. The delegates hinted that Kaffirs used Dutch droppels and Eau de Cologne as a "tipple," which the chemists admitted, saying that the traffic arose from the sale of these commodities by general dealers. They strenuously denied that such a practice was ever permitted in any chemist's shop in the Transvaal. Mr. Honey then said he would require the President of the Pharmacy Board at an early date to define a "patent medicine"—a task which Mr. Dinwoodie said he would be pleased to try. The interview terminated by the delegates promising to see that the interests of the chemists and druggists of the Transvaal were carefully watched at the Conference.

Canadian Notes.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PATENT MEDICINES.—In connection with the proposal to pass laws to regulate the manufacture and sale of patent and proprietary medicines, the point has been raised whether the power to legislate on this question rests with the Dominion or the provinces. A high official of the Government is emphatically of opinion that the matter is not one for the Federal authorities to deal with. British Columbia has recognised and is already considering a Bill dealing with the subject. The proposed Bill refers particularly to the alcoholic strength in proprietary medicines. Respecting the sale of such compounds, the Dominion has no jurisdiction. Under the Drugs Act a patent medicine is not a drug. The Federal authorities regulate the manufacture of alcohol, and collect an inland revenue tax of \$1.90 per gal.; but, as determined by the McCarthy Act, it has nothing whatever to do with the sale of liquor.

MONTREAL DRUG CLUB BANQUET.—The third annual dinner of this Club was held at the St. Lawrence Hall Café on February 21, with an attendance of 100. The President (Mr. J. E. Tremble) was in the chair. The invited guests were Professors J. E. Morrison and Bemrose, Messrs. H. H. Lyman, Theo. H. Wardleworth, E. Muir, D. W. Bole, J. W. Knox, Arthur Lyman, Warner, Dufresne, Z. Morin, S. Dugan, and Tedford. Among the speakers during the evening were Professors Bemrose and Morrison, Messrs. L. G. Ryan, H. Barre, T. Wardleworth, T. Brady, W. H.

Chapman, M. Albert, Paul Leduc, T. H. Robinson, A. P. Reid, P. Hanson, Tansey, Archie Cunningham, and A. Lyman, while those who contributed songs and recitations were Messrs. Z. Morin, Sydney Dugan, Tedford, E. Dufresne, and J. E. Warner.

PATENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The following Bill passed its first reading in the Legislature at Victoria, B.C., on February 23 :

No person shall sell, expose for sale, or have ready for sale any patent medicine, proprietary medicine, nostrum, or specific intended for internal consumption by human beings, that contains chloral hydrate, ergot, morphine, opium, belladonna, or any of their compounds or derivatives, cocaine or any of its salts, acetanilide, sulphuric, sulphurous, nitric, and nitrous acids, unless the box, bottle, vessel, wrapper, or cover in which said patent medicine, nostrum, or specific is put up is conspicuously labelled with the word "Poison," and with the name and percentage of the poisonous ingredients. No person shall sell, expose for sale, or have ready for sale any patent medicine, proprietary medicine, nostrum, or specific containing more than 10 per cent. of alcohol by weight, unless the owner, compounder, proprietor, or vendor of such patent medicine, proprietary medicine, nostrum, or specific shall have obtained from the Provincial Board of Health permission to employ more than 10 per cent. of alcohol in the composition of said patent medicine, proprietary medicine, nostrum, or specific.

The second reading will be taken shortly.

ANALYSIS OF PATENT MEDICINES.—A bulletin issued by the Inland Revenue Department contains reports of the analysis of a number of proprietary medicines. The results in fifteen analyses are tabulated as follows, these preparations being collected mainly with a view to their examination for alcohol :

	Weight	Alcohol Content			Solids
		Volume	Proof Spirit		
	percent.	percent.	percent.	percent.	
Peruna...	18.08	22.18	38.87	0.44	
Ayer's sarsaparilla ...	18 00	22.09	38.71	23.53	
Bristol's sarsaparilla ...	5.69	7 03	12.43	14.49	
Ozone ...	None	None	None	1.60	
Dr. Madison's Peruvian tonic	11 62	14.37	25.18	3 67	
Extract of sarsaparilla ...	1 75	2.20	3.85	41.53	
Standard sarsaparilla ...	14.36	17.70	31.03	38.33	
Liquozone ...	None	None	None	1.51	
Nyal's celery nervine ...	11.54	14.27	25.01	15.57	
Paine's celery compound ...	14.91	18.36	32.19	10.65	
Massey's sarsaparilla ...	2.28	2.86	5.01	39.18	
Burdock blood bitters ...	13.23	16.33	28.62	15.66	
Stringer's nervine ...	0.68	0.86	1.51	25.08	
Dr. Hodder's burdock and sarsaparilla compound ...	15.92	19.59	34.32	15.81	
Dr. Pierce's favourite prescription ...	None	None	None	40.83	

In the course of his remarks Mr. Thomas Macfarlane, the Chief Government Analyst, says, with regard to "Peruna," that from the small percentage of total solids it does not appear to belong to the class of patent medicines. The quantity of alcohol found in it (40 per cent. of proof spirit) is so high that it becomes a question as to whether "Peruna" can be legally sold by druggists without a liquor licence. Since "Ozone" contains a substance whose properties are the opposite of those indicated by the name, its sale would appear to be illegal under Section 2 of the Adulteration Act, according to which a drug shall be deemed to be adulterated

if its strength, quality, or purity falls below or differs from the professed standard under which it is sold or offered for sale.

That clause seems also to apply to some of the articles sold as "extract of sarsaparilla." The analyses were made by Mr. A. McGill, who likewise examined thirty samples of headache-powders. With regard to these, quantitative examination of the active drug (acetanilide, antifebrin, or phenacetin) was in every case attempted, but owing to the presence of interfering substances of very indefinite nature, such as ginger, liquorice, etc., these estimations were less

exact than could be wished. It was demonstrated, however, that acetanilide was present to the extent of about 3 grains in most of the powders containing it, while the amount of phenacetin present in the two preparations containing it did not exceed 5 grains. In most cases the depressant effect of acetanilide upon the heart was sought to be counteracted by the addition of caffeine, sodium bicarbonate, or other drugs of like character.

India and the East.

(From our Correspondent.)

Mr. C. Low, representing Messrs. H. Bronnley & Co., Ltd., soap and toilet specialists, London, was in Yokohama when the mail left.

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT has prohibited the sale of liquor, opium, or intoxicating drugs to persons of either sex under fourteen years of age.

A RECENT PRONOUNCEMENT of the Governor-General in Council advocates the use of either corrosive sublimate or "Izal" as a disinfectant in plague.

THE APPOINTMENT of German Consuls in various parts of India and Burma is beginning to be noticed as evidence of the business "push" of our Teutonic rivals.

NEW SPIRIT-DUTY.—The enhanced revenue which will accrue to the Government of India from the increase in the duty on spirits, liqueurs, and perfumed spirits which comes into force in March, may be taken at thirteen lakhs of rupees.

OPIUM-REVENUE.—The opium-revenue is still holding its own with a small margin. Receipts in Bengal to February 1 are 31 lakhs of rupees better than the estimates, and in Bombay 24 lakhs worse, leaving the net result 6 lakhs better than the estimates.

HOMEWARD BOUND.—Mr. W. Grice, of Smith, Stanistreet & Co., wholesale chemists and druggists, Calcutta, left for England in the s.s. *Golconda* on March 8. He expects to be in London in the middle of April, and may be addressed c/o Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Bartholomew Close, London, E.C., or at the offices of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

INDIAN INDIGO.—The extent of the collapse of the Indian indigo-industry is graphically illustrated by the official estimates for the current season, says the "Indian Agriculturist." The returns show a total probable yield this year of only 1½ million pounds, against 2½ million in the preceding twelve months, 4 million pounds being the average of the five years 1899-1903, and 5½ million the average of the ten years 1894-1903.

ADULTERATED CITRONELLA OIL.—At a meeting of the Matará Agricultural Association, held on February 12, Mr. C. L. Meurling, hon. secretary of the association, read a paper on the agricultural activities of the district, including citronella grass. They had in the latter a very paying product, derived from the poorest of soils. He commented at length on the suicidal practice of adulterating citronella oil. The industry was decaying not owing to pests and disease, but because of adulteration. He advocated special legislation. On behalf of the Society a letter was addressed to the parent association, asking for special legislation which would penalise adulteration, and also suggesting that a Government label be affixed to all citronella intended for export.

THE "MEDICAL PRESS" is printing a series of articles drawing attention to the prevalence of quack advertisements in the daily Press. The "Tribune" and the "Daily News" have been admonished, and this week the "Daily Mail" is the object of the medical journalist's scarifier.

ESCLAPITUS!—The youngster was gazing in the window of the chemist's shop, wherein a bust of Esculapian was prominently displayed, and his expression betokened scorn. "Well, I'm blowed!" he said. "What shocking ignorance!" And the chemist, who was standing just within, overheard and came forward. "What is shocking ignorance, my little man?" he queried blandly. For reply the youngster pointed to the inscription at the bottom of the bust. "E-s-c-u-l-a-p-i-u-s!" he said. "What a rotten way to spell 'eucalyptus'!"

Birth.

HOWARD.—At Quantocks, Woodford Green, on March 9, the wife of Bernard F. Howard (Howards & Sons, Ltd., Stratford), of a daughter.

Marriages.

CORKE—ERWIN.—At Pietermaritzburg, Natal, on February 14, Edward S. Corke, chemist, Johannesburg (son of Mr. E. Corke, chemist, Ticehurst, Sussex), to May, daughter of Mrs. Erwin, Belfast, Ireland.

McKINNELL—SMITH.—At St. Matthew's Church, Northampton, on March 12, Donald Forrest McKinnell, chemist and druggist, son of Mr. W. McKinnell, chemist and druggist, to Amy Constance Stella, younger daughter of Mr. Charles Smith, of Cornei, Northampton.

RANKINE—GRANT.—At Kirkfield, West Calder, on March 9, by the Rev. Thomas Low, assisted by the Rev. W. Henry Rankine, B.D. (brother of the bridegroom), Andrew Landale Rankine, chemist and druggist, Musselburgh, youngest son of Mr. Adam Rankine, schoolmaster, Auchterderran, Fife, to Barbara Ann, eldest surviving daughter of the late Mr. James Grant, baker, Kingussie.

Deaths.

ASTLEY.—At Moseley Terrace, Coventry, on February 27, Mr. John Astley, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-seven.

BOWDEN.—At Northampton, on March 8, Mr. William Bowden, of Rackfield, Barnstable (proprietor of Bowden's Indian Balm), aged seventy-two.

BRIDGMAN.—At Bude, Cornwall, on March 3, Mr. William Herbert Bridgman, chemist and druggist, of Ashwell, Herts, aged thirty-eight. Mr. Bridgman's first connection with Ashwell was as manager to Mr. C. Bond-Smith. Eight years ago he took over the business himself, and achieved much success. Three years ago he sustained a great blow by the death of his wife, and since his health has failed. In the autumn he went for a change to his home in the West of England, and again went to Bude in January. There he gradually became worse and died. The interment took place at Ashwell on March 8, amid universal expressions of sorrow.

COCKRILL.—At 113 Finsbury Park Road, N., on March 6, Mr. James Cockrill, pharmaceutical chemist, aged ninety-three.

CURHAM.—On March 11, at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, Osmund Arthur, third son of Mr. Samuel Curham, pharmaceutical chemist, 46 South Richmond Street, Dublin.

FARQUHAR.—At 42 West Street, Glasgow, on March 4, Mr. Robert Farquhar, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-three.

HATTIE.—At Halifax, Nova Scotia, suddenly, on March 1, Mr. James B. Hattie, one of the leading druggists of the city. Only a few weeks before Mr. Hattie was appointed manager of the Halifax branch of the National Drug and Chemical Co. of Canada.

HYLAND.—In the Queen Victoria Maternity Home, Jeppestown, Transvaal, on February 9, Mrs. Hyland, wife of Mr. C. W. Hyland, chemist, Jeppestown, aged thirty-seven. Mrs. Hyland was a member of the Loyal Women's Guild and was a great favourite among the poor of the Jeppestown and Wolhuter district, where her quiet, unostentatious philanthropy made her lifelong friends. A striking tribute to the respect in which she was held was furnished at the funeral, which took place on February 12. It was one of the largest funerals ever seen in Jeppestown, and over two hundred of the poorer residents of the neighbourhood followed the *cortège* on foot to the cemetery.

JENKIN.—At Summerhill, Sydney, New South Wales, on February 3, Mr. William J. Jenkin, chemist and druggist.

Mr. Jenkin was the son of the late Mr. Thomas Jenkin, builder, of Devonport, and served his apprenticeship with a chemist at Plymouth. Mr. Jenkin married a colonial lady, and leaves two sons and two daughters. He was a justice of the peace, and a prominent member of the Wesleyan Church.

PRATT.—At Treferne House, East View, Otley, on March 10, Mrs. E. A. Pratt, wife of Mr. Richard Muntion Pratt, pharmaceutical chemist. Mrs. Pratt had endeared herself to every person in the town in which so many changes have taken place since the days when her husband was classified in directories as being in business in the "Cattle Market, Otley." The late Mrs. Pratt had taken a useful part in connection with philanthropic and other work in Otley; and the esteem in which she was held by all sections of the community was evidenced by the representative gathering which assembled at the interment of her remains, which took place at Otley Cemetery on March 14.

SARGENT.—At Leigh, Lancashire, on March 4, Mr. Richard Sargent, analytical chemist and borough analyst, aged eighty.

SKELLON.—At Darncombe Street, Moss Side, Manchester, on February 20, Mr. William Skellon, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-two.

TAYLOR.—At Bridlington, on March 6, Sarah, widow of Mr. William Taylor, chemist and druggist, of Steel Bank, Sheffield, aged seventy-eight.

TAYLOR.—On March 9, at 42 Wickham Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Mr. Alfred John Taylor, late of Staines, Middlesex. Mr. Taylor was in business in Great Tower Street, E.C., for some fifteen years as a gum, shellac, and produce merchant, having previously been with the firm of Gilliatt & Co. He retired about two years ago, his business being taken over by his managing clerks, Messrs. Tucker and Cross.

Personalities.

MR. R. A. ROBINSON, L.C.C., has, under the auspices of the Municipal Association, addressed a meeting at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, on "London Municipal Expenditure."

MR. T. R. PERKINS, pharmacist and railway expert, of Henley-in-Arden, contributes an illustrated article on the "Manchester and Milford Railway" to the current issue of the "Railway Magazine."

OWING to continued ill-health, Mr. F. B. Parkin, of Parkin & Son, chemists, Ripon, has retired from business. The business was founded by Mr. Parkin's late father, and it says something for the longevity of the inhabitants of Ripon, as well as for the sterling character of the business, that the first customer of the late Mr. Parkin is still a customer at the establishment. Mr. F. B. Parkin intends to settle down in Ripon, where for eleven years he was Hon. Secretary of the Cricket and Athletic Club. He was for seven years one of the Wardens of Ripon Cathedral, and is still a member of the City Council.

MR. JOHN E. PARKER, senior representative of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., has retired, after being in the employ of the Liverpool firm (Messrs. Evans Sons & Co.) from 1862 till 1902, and subsequently, since the amalgamation, with the London firm, Messrs. Evans Lescher & Webb. In a circular-letter sent out by the directors it is stated: "It is a matter of regret to us that Mr. Parker, although in comparatively good health, considers it desirable to give up active work. He has continuously represented us with diligence and success, and we are sure his many friends in the country will join with us in wishing him many years of health and happiness."

"OPENING A PHARMACY."—This compact book deals with capital required, shop-fitting, order for drugs, the dispensing department, the chemist's books and how to keep them, how to take a lease, assistants, trade-mark and copyright, the sale of poisons, stamped medicines, methylated spirit, advertising, and income-tax. Published by the *C. & D.* at 2s., by post 2s. 2d.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

EVENING MEETING.

THE President of the Society, Mr. R. A. Robinscn, took the chair at an evening meeting on March 13. He was supported by the Secretary (Mr. R. Bremridge) and the Treasurer (Mr. Walter Hills). There were about thirty men and women present. The first paper was by Messrs. E. H. Farr and Robert Wright on

POWDERED EXTRACT OF STRAMONIUM.

It was read by Mr. WRIGHT, and forms the fourth of a series of papers on pharmacopœial extracts. The other three have dealt with extract of henbane, extract of belladonna-leaves, and extract of belladonna-root; while a fifth, to be presented to the British Pharmaceutical Conference, is to deal with extract of nux vomica.

An extract of stramonium-seeds and a tincture of the leaves have been official since 1867, and the authors pointed out that an extract from the leaves is not an ideal preparation, for the reason that the fixed drying oil (15 to 30 per cent.) in the seeds becomes rancid on keeping. The alkaloidal strength of the leaves and seeds is approximately the same, and there seems no reason for retaining the seeds. The great variation in recorded alkaloidal strength of stramonium-seeds was commented on, especially the figures given by American investigators. The higher results obtained in America may be due to a difference in the plants and the method of estimation with Meyer's reagent. Schmidt obtained 0.3 per cent. of alkaloid, Hertz 1.67, Lyons 0.4, Thompson 0.166, Parke, Davis & Co. 0.3 to 0.4, and Umney 0.2 to 0.46. The United States Pharmacopœia standard is 0.35, which, in the opinion of the authors of the paper, would be too high for Great Britain, as they found an average of fifteen samples to contain 0.22 per cent., the maximum being 0.28 and the minimum 0.16. The leaves yield on an average of eight samples 0.22 per cent., with a maximum of 0.3 and minimum of 0.12. These results suggest a standard of 0.2 per cent., and show that stramonium occupies a position between henbane (0.10 per cent.) and belladonna (0.4 per cent.). If, however, 0.1 per cent. is fixed for belladonna, it would perhaps be convenient to standardise stramonium the same strength. The paper then went on to deal with the percentage of alkaloid in the B.P. extract, the process—heating with sodium carbonate and shaking out with chloroform—being explained in detail. The yield of alkaloids to different menstrua was shown as follows:

Average percentage of alkaloid in dry extracts prepared from the seeds:

90-per-cent. alcohol	70-per-cent.	50-per-cent.
3.0	4.27	4.09

Average percentage of alkaloid in dry extracts prepared from the leaves:

90-per-cent. alcohol	70-per-cent.	50-per-cent.
2.31	1.59	1.13

Average percentage of dried extract and alkaloid from seeds in coarse powder:

Dry extract	Alkaloid	Alkaloid in extract
0.69	0.032	4.6

Average percentage of dried extract and alkaloid from seeds in fine powder:

Dry extract	Alkaloid	Alkaloid in extract
1.29	0.024	1.186

From these figures it is apparent that an extract of any strength can be prepared, and it will be noticed that weak alcohol extracts less alkaloid from the leaves—the opposite to what occurs in the case of the seed. The experiments as to the difference between fine and coarse powdered seeds were undertaken because it is preferable to use coarse powder in the case of oil-seeds. The amount of oil found by the authors in the seeds was 17.5 per cent., previous investigators having noted 16.7, 23.1, and 32 per cent. A few minutes was next devoted to the microscopic characters of the leaves, and Mr. Wright then spoke of the usefulness of powdered extracts in dispensing. It was this that led the authors to abandon their original idea of preparing standard solid or semi-solid extracts. The extract

is diluted with an inert powder such as sugar of milk, the powdered drug of known strength, or a powder prepared from the spent marc.

DISCUSSION.

Professor H. G. GREENISH agreed that powdered extracts are more convenient to handle for dispensing, and asked which menstruum yields the best extract from a pharmacist's point of view. Referring to the variations in the alkaloidal strength, it was refreshing, he said, to find that Messrs. Farr and Wright have confirmed English analyses. He mentioned also that in the United States the importers are very particular as to the quality of the herbs they obtain from England, which might account for the discrepancies in analyses, although the methods of analyses are not free from objection.

Mr. E. M. HOLMES confirmed the last speaker and said the Americans required the finest varieties of herbs. A case in point is digitalis, a special quality being grown for the purpose. Stramonium varies much in its luxuriance according to the soil in which it is grown: on a manure-heap it produces luxuriant foliage and more fruit, and probably more alkaloid. In regard to the preference of the leaves over the seeds Mr. Holmes said that stramonium-leaves have been put into commerce in a very mixed condition of late years, and, unless carefully examined, adulterants may be present in quite a large proportion. *Datura tatula* and *D. Stramonium* are much alike, but probably differ in alkaloidal content. It would be interesting to know what proportion of leaves is imported from Germany and how much is home-grown. The home-grown stramonium is higher in price and is used chiefly for cigarettes.

Mr. WALTER HILLS said as Chairman of the Committee of Reference of the Pharmacopœia Committee he took a parental interest in the investigations of Messrs. Farr and Wright, and, indeed, looked for a good deal of help from these authors. As it has sometimes been urged that the British Pharmacopœia is tending to be more a manufacturers' or wholesalers' Pharmacopœia, it is interesting to note that both Mr. Farr and Mr. Wright are representative retail pharmacists. The first object of the Pharmacopœia should be to devise such processes as could be carried out by pharmacists in their spare time, and he considered that Messrs. Farr and Wright are working under the best conditions for producing monographs that will be useful to pharmacists in their daily work. He inquired whether the samples of fine and coarse powdered stramonium experimented upon were from the same sample of the drug.

Mr. WRIGHT: No; they were not from the same sample.

Mr. E. T. BREWIS, after congratulating the authors on the practical nature of the paper, inquired whether the powdered dry extracts kept well without becoming sticky. The difficulty met with in powdered extracts was their hygroscopic nature. American methods of analysis in many cases are carried out with aliquot parts and on that account are open to greater risks of error. Bird's method, in which the residue from the whole sample is operated on, is far more reliable. He confirmed Mr. Holmes's observations as to the difference between stramonium grown on poor and on luxuriant soils.

Mr. H. FINNEMORE referred to the advantages of powdered extracts, especially for dispensing tablets. He was glad that Messrs. Farr and Wright have adopted the suggestion of Mr. Deane to use a powder of the exhausted drug as a diluent for the extracts.

Mr. WRIGHT, in reply, said he was disposed to recommend the 70-per-cent. alcoholic menstruum for all leaf extracts. It has the advantage of yielding more extract, and avoids the disadvantages that follow the introduction of mucilage through using low strengths of alcohol. With 70-per-cent. alcohol better-keeping extracts can be made. Mr. Holmes's reference to the adulteration of the leaves applies equally to the seeds, it being almost impossible to distinguish the varieties of seeds. Mr. Ransom informed him that there is a regular steady demand for stramonium,

but not comparable with the demand for belladonna or henbane. The prescribing of extract of stramonium has almost died out, perhaps owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the Pharmacopœia extract. Regarding Mr. Hill's reference to the Pharmacopœia being a wholesalers' book, from one standpoint this is true, but that it is so is the fault of the pharmacists themselves. As pharmacy progresses so must pharmacists become more scientific. If they will not trouble to become more scientific, preparations involving standardisation must fall into the hands of wholesale firms. Any pharmacist who has passed the Pharmaceutical Society's examinations should be able to produce standard extracts himself. The only difficulty is in the determination of the alkaloid, but with a good balance, ordinary apparatus, and some trouble—more perhaps than the trading pharmacist would care to take—it is very easy. Stored under ordinary conditions the powdered extracts do not sensibly decrease in strength. Powdered extracts were introduced into the United States Pharmacopœia and then dropped; but if the Committee of Revision set themselves to work to produce powdered extracts that would go wrong, they went the right way. An extract should be made of such a strength that it will require dilution with at least twice its bulk of powder. Mr. Wright referred in complimentary terms to Bird's method of estimating alkaloid, but emphasised the danger of using ether. Mr. Deane's suggestion to use powdered marc for dilution is very valuable, but care must be taken that the diluent is really free from alkaloid. The wild plants of belladonna, henbane, and stramonium yield more alkaloid than the cultivated kinds.

Mr. HILLS, interposing, said his reference to the Pharmacopœia being a wholesalers' was that "it has been said there is a tendency for the Pharmacopœia to become more and more a wholesalers'." (Laughter.)

Mr. E. M. HOLMES was then called upon to read "Notes on some recent Additions to the Museum." This was really a series of materia-medica papers of great interest. The first one was on

NATAL ALOES.

Among the unsolved problems left by Hanbury in 1878 was the source of Natal aloes. For years Mr. Holmes has tried to obtain specimens of the plant yielding this aloes. Mr. Albert Walsh (Lennon & Co.) sent him a plant from Port Elizabeth, which was found to be *Aloe platylepis*. It does not, however, give an opaque aloes or the characteristic reaction of Natal aloes. The juice of the leaf of *Aloe succotrina* comes nearest to that of Natal aloes, but differs in giving a purple colour with the bromine-test. The exact source of *A. succotrina*, a cultivated plant, is not known. Mr. Holmes asked Mr. J. Medley Wood, Curator of the Durban Botanical Gardens, to try to obtain information as to the plant yielding Natal aloes. Mr. Wood sent a photograph of an aloe growing on the Matoppo Hills, which also grows in the Transvaal, and this turns out to be a new aloe at present unnamed. It has an inflorescence differing from other aloe-plants. Mr. Wood has informed Mr. Holmes that as Natal aloes is probably produced by the Dutch he believes that he is now on the trail of the plant. Incidentally it was mentioned that Soccotrine aloes is not the product of *A. succotrina*, but comes from *A. Perryi*, as shown by Professor Bayley Balfour.

STROPHANTHUS.

It has taken twenty years to clear up the source whence come the strophanthus-seeds of commerce. The seeds have always been mixed, even those used by Frazer, who investigated the physiological action, being a mixture of genuine and inactive seeds. The original specimens of *S. Kombé* reached Kew in 1864 from the Livingstone Expedition. Dr. Kirk (now Sir John Kirk), who accompanied the expedition, suggested that the seeds could find a place in medicine owing to the distinctive action of the drug on the heart. Mr. Holmes then gave an account of the confusion that has existed in regard to commercial strophanthus-seeds, the serious side being the fact that many of the samples are inactive and that tincture of strophanthus has on this account had its activity underrated. Six varieties of false seeds have been identified, *S. Courmontii* and its varieties being the best known. Up till recently it has been necessary to test each seed before one could be certain that it was genuine Kombé seed: it is impossible

to tell by appearance. The genuine seed gives a green colour when tested with a mixture of 80 parts of sulphuric acid and 20 of water. Now, however, the African Lakes Corporation are, through Messrs. Oppenheimer, supplying genuine Kombé seed, previous supplies from the same source having been mixed.

COCHINEAL.

The third item of Mr. Holmes's paper was on the commerce of cochineal. The import of cochineal is not now so great as formerly, owing to the extended use of aniline dyes. At present most of the cochineal comes from the Canary Islands. In 1904 the imports were 2,089 cwt. from Tenerife and 63 cwt. from other foreign countries, probably Guatemala. Mr. Holmes then gave some interesting particulars about the commercial varieties of cochineal, one of the points being that, as quality is often made to suit price, pharmacists should have full information on this point. The different qualities are produced by sifting. There are at least two factitious articles. *Silver-grain* cochineal owes its appearance to the covering of waxy secretion. The insects are killed by exposure to charcoal-fumes. The silver grain is sometimes imitated by facing with talc or lead carbonate. *Black-grain* cochineal is prepared by drying at a higher temperature, and the *red-grain* cochineal by dipping in boiling water and then drying. The black-grain variety is sometimes mixed with magnetic iron sand, charitably said to be due to the insects falling on the ground and some of the sand getting stuck to the bodies. The polished kind of black-grain is a "faked" article, and disintegrates when placed in water. It appears to be made to meet the demand for cheap drugs. *Granilla* cochineal consists of the small insects sifted out, while *Madres* cochineal consists of mother insects after the eggs are hatched, and is esteemed by carmine-makers, as it yields more colouring-matter than any other kind, weight for weight.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. PERRÉDÈS inquired whether the leaves, flowers, and seeds of the specimen of *S. Kombé* exhibited were all from the same plant, as he believed that some years ago the Society had not a complete plant of *S. Kombé*. No one could distinguish the seeds of *S. Kombé* and *S. Courmontii* without the colour-reaction, although microscopically the presence of calcium oxalate excludes the former. *S. Kombé* and *S. hispidus* both contain strophanthin and are free from calcium oxalate on the seed-coats.

Professor GREENISH referred to the good work Mr. Holmes is doing in getting together commercial specimens of drugs. The expansion of the museum in this direction is of the utmost importance to students.

Mr. HOLMES, replying, said the flowers, leaves, and pods exhibited as *S. Kombé* were all gathered from the same plant and supplied by the African Lakes Corporation. In regard to the colour-test for the seeds it is necessary to see that the acid is kept up to strength. Mr. Holmes finished with an appeal for commercial specimens of drugs from those who are in a position to supply them, as he is anxious to continue his work in this direction.

The PRESIDENT, in putting the vote of thanks, mentioned that the next meeting would be on April 10, when Mr. Julian Baker would read a paper on "Fermentation."

Information Wanted.

Inquiries for the names and addresses of manufacturers, or other trade information, not traceable by reference to the advertisement-pages of "The Chemist and Druggist" and the "C. & D. Diary," or not filed in our private register, are inserted here free of charge. Postcard or other replies to any of the subjoined inquiries (addressed to the Editor "The Chemist and Druggist," 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.) will be esteemed

249/17. Present address of manufacturers of "Glycola."

244/67. Where can "Brown's ammonia soap" be obtained?

246/33. Name of makers or suppliers of fluid extract of beef in bulk.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on March 7 at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin. The President (Dr. Walsh) presided; and the other members of Council who attended were the Vice-President (Mr. Smith) and Messrs. George D. Beggs, William F. Wells, Thomas Batt, Blair, T. N. Moffitt, Michie, A. H. Misstear, and D. M. Watson.

RESIGNATIONS AND CO-OPTIONS.

The PRESIDENT said the first business was the co-option of a member of the Council in the place of Mr. W. Vincent Johnston, who had resigned in order to become a candidate for the office of second examiner in the practical pharmacy division of the Licence examination. Since the last meeting, however, Mr. Johnston had resigned his candidature for that office in favour of Mr. William Allen, and Dr. Meyler had done likewise. A letter had been received from Mr. F. W. Brittain resigning his seat on the Council. This created another vacancy, and what it was proposed to do now was to co-opt another member in place of Mr. Johnston, and afterwards to co-opt him to fill Mr. Brittain's place. He (the President) had therefore much pleasure in proposing that Mr. W. J. Hardy, 20 Castle Place, Belfast, be co-opted in place of Mr. Johnston. He had known Mr. Hardy for a great number of years, and was aware of how he had got on in Belfast. He was a man of great business capacity, and would be of great service to them there. Some impression had got abroad that Mr. Hardy had something to do with company pharmacy; but what he went into was a sort of private company as managing partner, and he did so for the purpose of getting the whole thing into his hands. He is at one with the Council on the subject of company pharmacy.

Mr. MOFFITT, seconding, said Mr. Hardy is one of the largest chemists in Belfast, and would attend regularly.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The REGISTRAR read Mr. Brittain's letter of resignation, in which it was stated that Mr. Brittain had severed his active connection with pharmacy, having been obliged to sell his business to a company.

Mr. BEGGS moved that Mr. Brittain's resignation be accepted with regret. While he was a member of the Council he had given very considerable time and ability to the transaction of their business.

Mr. WELLS, in seconding, said Mr. Brittain had been a very regular attendant at their meetings.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. WELLS moved that Mr. Vincent Johnston be co-opted in the room of Mr. Brittain. When Mr. Johnston heard that Mr. William Allen was a candidate for the examinership, he felt it would not be proper on his part to oppose him, which was a graceful act. Mr. Johnston had not been particularly anxious to be co-opted, but at last consented.

Mr. BEGGS seconded the motion, and said that he could not overlook the graceful manner in which Mr. Johnston had resigned his chance of election to the examinership when he saw that Mr. Allen had come forward.

Mr. MICHIE said he had no objection to the co-option of Mr. Johnston, but he submitted that it could not be done that day. It was not on the agenda-paper; and there is a regulation that the business to be transacted at each meeting of the Council must appear on the agenda-paper.

Mr. WATSON and Mr. BLAIR maintained the same view.

Mr. WELLS pointed out that if the co-option was not done that day it could not be done at all. A few days before the last meeting Mr. Brittain wrote to the President conveying his resignation. The Section of the Act of Parliament regulating co-options provided that they should take place "on a date to be fixed by the President not later than two monthly meetings after the vacancy had been signified to the President." The present was the second monthly meeting since the President had received notice of the resignation.

Mr. WATSON moved, in amendment, that the co-option should take place at the next monthly meeting, and this

Mr. BLAIR seconded.

The PRESIDENT ruled that the amendment was illegal and declined to receive it. He then put the motion for the co-

option of Mr. Johnston, and it was carried by seven votes to three.

The Council divided as follows: For the motion: The President, the Vice-President, Messrs. Beggs, Wells, Misstear, Moffitt, and Batt. Against: Messrs. Michie, Blair, and Watson.

FINES REDUCED.

A letter from the Assistant Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle, notified that the Lord-Lieutenant had reduced the fines imposed on James V. Nevin by the Magistrates at Dungarvan to 1*l.* in each case.

Mr. MISSTEAR: What were our expenses in those cases?

The PRESIDENT: I should say over 10*l.* We thought that the previous reduction of fines was due to the general election; but there is no such excuse in this case; and it is an urgent question now whether we should continue these prosecutions at all.

Mr. MISSTEAR: Is there no means by which the Lord-Lieutenant can be informed of the loss the Society sustains by these reductions?

The PRESIDENT: In this particular case I don't think it makes much difference, because we should have a difficulty in recovering the amount of the fine. It is as regards future cases that the question arises.

Mr. MICHIE asked that the reply of the Council to the Nevin memorial to the Lord-Lieutenant (asking for a reduction of the penalties) should be read.

Mr. FERRALL read the reply. It stated as follows:

The Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain had reported that there is no person named Nevin entitled to practise pharmacy in Great Britain, and that consequently the statement in the first paragraph of the memorial is inaccurate. Edward J. Hendly, an assistant, had admitted on cross-examination that the memorialist's shop was conducted as a "medical hall," which he defined to be "a place where drugs and poisons are sold." The Council have great difficulty in detecting offences against the Pharmacy Acts; and it is only by the imposition of substantial penalties that these can be prevented. The Council are entitled under Section 36 of the 1875 Act to two-thirds of the penalties, but the sums they receive in any case are not sufficient to pay the costs and expenses of the prosecution. No public funds are allotted to them, and they are obliged to fall back on the subscriptions of the members of the Society. The inspector of the Society visited Nevin's shop and purchased, among other articles, a quarter of an ounce of corrosive sublimate. This was put up in a small packet, marked "The Powder," in pencil "Corrosive sublimate" was written, and in the left-hand corner, also in pencil, but so faintly as to be almost illegible, the word "Poison." The packet had on it "From the Medical Hall, Main Street, Dungarvan," but not the name of the seller. Owing to a mistake on the part of the inspector, proceedings were not taken in reference to this purchase. On October 4, 1905, the inspector made a further purchase of corrosive sublimate. It was contained in a quarter-pint bottle of a shape such as is used for whisky, and was marked "Corrosive sublimate spirit—poison." On analysis it was found to contain $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of corrosive sublimate.

Mr. BEGGS: With the letter from the Castle before us, I think we have very little chance, when we do get a conviction, of getting the fine. The tendency of the present Administration seems to be to reduce fines. My feeling is that we should collect all the cases of breaches of the law that are brought under our notice into a batch, and send them to the Castle, saying, "You have given us an Act of Parliament for the safety of the public, but we have no funds to carry it out; do you vindicate the law." I think if such a batch of cases were sent to them it might have a salutary effect.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: They would pitch it into the waste-paper basket. I think we have a very strong case here, and I really think that we ought to send a deputation to the Lord-Lieutenant or the Chief Secretary to draw attention to the scandalous condition of affairs. Our expenses in this case were exceptionally heavy—more than 20*l.*—on account of the solicitor and the analyst having to attend the court.

Mr. WATSON: Is this the case in which the man has left the country?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, we have had private information to that effect.

Mr. MISSTEAR said he was afraid the idea at the Castle is that these prosecutions are the efforts of a trade society to prevent competition and to maintain a monopoly.

Mr. WELLS: The late Government did not take that view.

Mr. MISSTEAR: They all have a tendency that way.

Mr. WELLS: This Government began with a case that cost us from 12*l.* to 15*l.*; and now we have another reduction. We shall have to get Mr. Gordon to ask a question in the House of Commons.

The PRESIDENT suggested that notice of a resolution on the subject should be put on the agenda-paper.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIELD.

A letter from the Accountant-General of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Court enclosed 6*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, being two-thirds of the fines and costs imposed on Mr. Forbes Sharpley.

The PRESIDENT: That is a slight change.

Thanks were voted to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain for their donation of copies of their Calendar and Registers for 1906.

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION MARKS.

The PRESIDENT moved—

That, in order to reduce the total marks for the Preliminary examination from 110 to 100, the marks allocated by Privy Council Order of September 15, 1891, for algebra and geometry be reduced by five each.

A wish, he said, had been expressed by the Lord-Lieutenant's Visitor that the total of the marks should be 100, and it was thought that the best way to arrange that would be to take five marks each off algebra and geometry.

The motion was seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, and agreed to.

APPRENTICESHIP AFTER EXAMINATION.

The PRESIDENT moved—

That Pharmaceutical Licence Examination Regulation 1 be as follows:

Candidates presenting themselves for this examination must be twenty-one years of age, and have passed the Preliminary examination prior to the four years' service required by Regulation III.

(This regulation to apply to all commencing the four years' service after December 31, 1906.)

It has been pointed out by the Visitor that the Preliminary examination should be a test of a lad's fitness to go to the business, and that it should therefore precede apprenticeship.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded the motion.

Mr. MOFFITT said some members in the North of Ireland complained of a dearth of apprentices, and they would not be in favour of this regulation being made compulsory.

Mr. BLAIR said several chemists in the South did not agree with the proposal; they thought it would be a cause of hardship. It might be made permissive.

Mr. MICHIE said he was convinced that if the proposal were carried out it would be a great improvement. It would be a benefit both to the Society and to the young men who come to the business. The Society would get a better class of young men as students. At present young men, after they become apprentices, have not time to prepare themselves for the Preliminary examination, with the result that their apprenticeship sometimes expires before they pass the examination.

Mr. WELLS was strongly in favour of the resolution. It was a great disadvantage that boys should be allowed to enter the profession without having shown their fitness.

The resolution was put, and unanimously agreed to.

THE LICENCE-FEE.

The PRESIDENT moved another resolution increasing the fee for re-examination for the Licence from a guinea and a half to two guineas.

This was agreed to.

ELECTION OF EXAMINERS.

Mr. H. O'Connor was re-elected to conduct the Pharmaceutical Assistant examination.

Mr. William N. Allen, of Henry Street, Dublin, was elected second examiner for the practical pharmacy division of the Licence examination.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

The following were elected members of the Society: Mr. J. S. Anderson, Lisburn; Mr. J. T. Carroll, Kilmallock; Mr. C. Crowley, Tralee; and Mr. J. C. O'Farrell, Dublin.

Mr. T. A. Sheirliffe, Armagh, and Mr. W. McMullan, Belfast, were elected associate druggists.

Other business having been disposed of, the Council separated.

Electric Carbons.

THE rapid spread of the electric light has, as in the case of most new industries, given rise to a number of subsidiary manufactures, some of which are of considerable importance. At first each electric-light company endeavoured to manufacture its own appliances; but by degrees the various branches became specialised, and this tendency increases from year to year. The production of electric carbons for the arc light was, until about five years ago, chiefly a German industry; but a well-equipped factory has been established at Witton, near Birmingham, by the General Electric Co., Ltd., and most varieties of carbons may now be obtained of British make. A similar composition to that used for arc carbons is also employed in the manufacture of battery carbons, for which there is a considerable demand.

Owing to the necessity for keeping the percentage of ash as low as possible, the choice of carbonaceous materials for this industry is limited. In the United States petroleum coke yields a material of great purity; but in Europe the substance most used is gas-retort carbon. It is a curious illustration of the inter-dependence of modern industries that electric-arc lighting should be indebted for its most important raw material to its two competitors, gas and petroleum. Retort-carbon, being produced by the decomposition of hydrocarbon vapours in contact with the hot walls of the retort, is theoretically of considerable purity, but in practice it is liable to be contaminated with particles of fireclay from the retort and ash from the coke. The first operation to which it has to be subjected is a very careful hand-picking, during which the larger pieces are broken up and, as far as possible, the impure portions rejected. To those familiar with chemical operations on a large scale this operation would appear to be needlessly expensive and capable of improvement both as regards quality and economy. The picked carbon is first crushed between crushing-rollers and then reduced to an impalpable powder in ball mills. The next process is to convert this powder into a plastic paste, for which purpose it is mixed with lampblack and tar in proportions differing according to the variety of carbon which is being manufactured. The lampblack, or soot, as it is called, must be as free from ash and volatile matter as possible, and the tar is previously heated to a temperature sufficiently high to deprive it of every trace of water or hydrocarbons volatile at a low temperature. The three ingredients are mixed in a kneading-machine and then ground between rollers, from which the mass issues in the form of glistening black flakes. These flakes are next converted into compact cylinders by stamping in stamping-machines similar to those so well known in connection with gold-mining. The homogeneous charge thus obtained is then inserted into a powerful hydraulic press, from which it issues as a rod, tube, or strip, according to the shape of the die used. The pressure is considerable, and varies according to the diameter of the rod and the composition of the mixture. For the usual arc-carbons a pressure of about 250 kilos. per square centimetre is required. On issuing from the hydraulic press the carbon rod is cut into one-metre lengths, and is next dried in stoves until it will bear handling. A number of these rods are then carefully packed in sheets of cardboard and placed in vertical retorts, in which they are embedded in carbon dust in order to exclude the air. The furnacing is done in chamber kilns on the Hofmann principle, generator-gas being the fuel used. The "baking" operation lasts about nine days, the first heat being applied very gradually. The maximum heat of about 3,000° C. is kept up for about five hours, after which the retorts or crucibles are allowed to cool slowly, their waste heat being absorbed by the air entering the kiln. When sufficiently cool, the rods are removed from the retorts

and chopped into pieces of the requisite length by means of guillotine machines. The ends of these pieces being rough, they are next ground smooth either by hand or by means of an ingenious automatic machine, which grips each carbon securely and passes it between grindstones fixed at the necessary distance apart. Another somewhat similar automatic machine sharpens the ends of those rods that are sent out with conical points. During the baking-process some of the rods are slightly warped, and an automatic machine has been devised to eliminate these. Each rod is delivered upon a loose inclined steel plate. If curved it can roll no further and is tipped into the waste-box, but if straight it rolls on to a fixed steel incline whence it passes on to the next process. Cored carbons, which are now so largely used, are practically carbon tubes the bore of which is filled with a graphite mixture. This mixture is squirted into the bore of the tube by means of another automatic machine, and the carbon is then dried in a special oven.

Battery-carbons are pressed in the form of long strips, which are cut into pieces of the required length. These are then oiled and inserted into presses furnished with dies, which mould the head in the well-known shape. When baked in the same way as the arc-carbons the heads of the battery-plates are drilled and tapped, and brass terminals screwed in. The head is coated with an asphalt varnish to prevent "creeping" of the battery liquids. Switch-contacts are also made at Witton from similar carbon composition. Some of the carbons are coppered electrolytically at one end. Formerly the conductivity of carbons was so defective that it was sometimes necessary to copper the whole carbon; but this complete copper coating is now looked upon as an indication of an inferior carbon.

Simple as the manufacture may appear, great care is required in the supervision of each process, and the raw materials must be carefully analysed and checked continuously. The finished carbons must also be submitted to practical tests before they are issued. The quantity of carbon rods consumed annually in Great Britain is estimated at from twenty to twenty-five million metres, and the capacity of the Witton works is about five million metres at present. The industry cannot be regarded as a flourishing one in this country, mainly because foreign manufacturers, chiefly in Germany, dump their surplus goods here at or even below cost-price. Our manufacturers cannot compete in Germany owing to the high import-tariff.

Chemists do not yet appear to have realised that in this artificial carbon they have a material capable of many uses. It can be produced in any form, and is not acted on by acids or alkalis at ordinary temperatures, nor is it, like porcelain or glass, sensitive to rapid changes of temperature. When better known, it will no doubt find many uses in chemical industry.

Recent Wills.

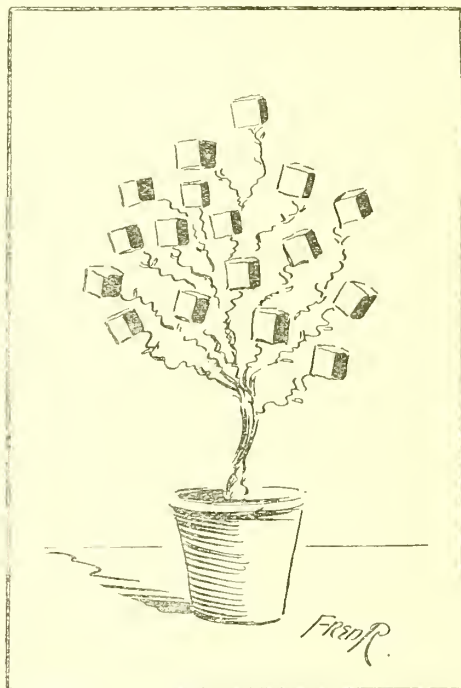
ATHERTON.—John Henry Atherton, pharmaceutical chemist, Gateshead, who died intestate on December 12, left estate valued at 717*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* gross.

COCKS.—The late Mr. John Luke Cocks, chemist and druggist, Wimbledon, and 88 Chancery Lane, London, also a partner in the firm of Messrs. Hepburn & Cocks, deed-box manufacturers, New Yard, Queen Street, and Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., left estate valued at 23,089*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* gross, the net personalty (exclusive of real estate) being sworn at 2,856*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* His wife receives the benefit of the estate for life, after which his properties, 9 New Church Court, Strand, 49A Lincoln's Inn Fields, 59 Wych Street, Strand, house property at Wimbledon and his businesses go to his son John Hepburn Cocks, other property at Wimbledon and Westbourne Park to his son William Alexander Cocks, and estate at Wimbledon, St. Mary Cray, and his shares in the British Land Co. and in the Albert New Mills, Heywood, Lancs. to his son James Somerville Cocks, and the ultimate residue of his estate to these three sons in equal shares.

SMITH.—According to inventories of personal estates just lodged with the Sheriff Clerk of Ayrshire, the late Dr. John Macdonald Smith, of Dundonald House, Kilmarnock, and Wellington Place, Cheltenham, died possessed of 1,600*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, including heritage.

WARHURST.—The late Mr. John Warhurst, chemist and druggist, Ulverston, Lancs, left estate valued at 5,363*l.* 13*s.* gross and 4,894*l.* 5*s.* net, most of which goes to nephews and nieces.

Conundrum Column.



Determine the Name

of the above peculiar plant and write a limerick about it on a postcard, which post to the Editor not later than March 20. Each one printed will be paid for.

The Facsimile Order

printed last week was somewhat easy. The correct transcription was :

*Mixture renewed,
3d. of Boracic Powder,
Please send the latter by the boy.*

A fair proportion of the postcards mentions "borax powder," and various interpretations of the first line are given—e.g. :

Mixture and Himrod,
Mixture Required,
Mixture Tamarnd.
Miss Florrie Dinwood.
Miss Win Thimood.

The prizes are awarded on point of priority to the following :

Mr. H. Griffiths, c/o Mr. R. S. Dampney, 87 Abingdon Road, Kensington, W.

Mr. H. R. Maynard, Holncastle.

Mr. Scott Paisley, c/o Mr. Beattie, Langholm.

The original was supplied by Mr. Geo. A. Hamilton, 166 North End Road, West Kensington, who says : "I might not have been able to decipher it myself; but the boy who brought the order said that he had to take the powder back with him. He also brought the empty medicine-bottle to be refilled."

The caligraphy has previously figured in this column.

VERY LIKE A WHALE.—In one of his chatty scientific articles in a leading Paris daily, M. Emile Gautier reminds us of a Newfoundlanders who proposed to spoil the cod-liver oil market by substituting—whale's milk. Of course, we all know the whale is a mammal, but the project seemed a hardy one. The advertiser stated he had secured fifty female whales, and for the milking-stool and pail of *terra firma* was to be substituted "a special apparatus." While mildly sarcastic as to the American origin of the tale, M. Emile Gautier confesses he cannot pronounce on the fortifying qualities of whale's milk for the simple reason that it appears never to have been analysed.

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

Members of Parliament

who do not approve of the Pharmacy Bill are not asked to dissemble their hostility, but they need not go tumbling over each other in their eagerness to declare their antipathy to it. The three notices of opposition put down last week by Mr. Scott, Mr. Duckworth, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor must all have been drafted and handed in before the Bill could have been printed. That does not suggest a high standard of statesmanship. Mr. O'Connor owns an organ, and in that he has just published to the world his non-political views of pharmacy as a career. "Another great injustice to pharmacists," he has there stated, "is the amount of dispensing done by unqualified persons in the country, thereby causing unfair competition to the individual who looks for a fair share of return for expenditure in qualifying." Mr. O'Connor's objection to the Bill must surely be that it does not go far enough.

A Noteworthy Feature

of the phenomenal development of our oversea trade is the diminishing discrepancy between British imports and exports. From the middle of last century the difference has grown from not much more than fifty millions a year in the early 'fifties to over 150 millions in 1903. The pause began in 1904. From the middle of that year up to and including last month the volume of both imports and exports has expanded astonishingly, but the export increases have bounded along at almost twice the rate of their heavier-laden neighbours. In 1905 imports increased by fourteen millions, exports by twenty-nine millions; and in the first two months of 1906 the relative increases have been 10 and 18 per cent. What may be the meaning of this changed tendency cannot be definitely known. It is not necessarily a sign of prosperity. Imports being payment for exports, the more we get of them the wealthier we become. Are we selling at unremunerative prices; dumping, in fact? There is no evidence of that, and it would be a senseless proceeding with good business about. There are two other distinct but corresponding explanations, and it is probable that both are true. Pessimists say that during and after the South African War British investors parted with a lot of foreign securities, American principally. This would mean less to come from abroad in the form of dividends, and the dividends reach us in the form of merchandise. The optimist view is that we have now recommenced investments in colonial and foreign enterprises. The investments go out in the form of machinery or other British products, thus swelling that section for the time, pending the profit on these undertakings.

A Hundred Years Ago

the official value of the imports into the United Kingdom was declared at 26,899,658*l.*, and of the exports at 33,579,434*l.*, less than our present monthly average. But those figures are very misleading, as they were calculated on an antiquated table of prices, our old friend Sir Harbottle Grimston's "Book of Rates," or one of its successors. Allowing for enhanced prices as well as for smuggling—and the latter was a substantial addition—it would not be far wrong to double the amounts quoted. But 1806 was especially interesting as the year when the most determined effort was made to destroy British commerce on the seas. England began it. To punish Prussia for holding Hanover England declared a blockade of the whole northern coast of Europe from Brest to the Elbe. Napoleon responded by the famous Berlin decree, issued after the battle of Jena, declaring all British ships, or neutral ships with

British goods, liable to seizure, their captains to be shot, all correspondence with England to be confiscated, and some more amenities. Of course this decree could not be executed, though only Sweden, Spain, and Portugal openly refused to obey it. At the outside the European trade of this country was not affected by it by more than 10 per cent. But it was found that American ships were specially favoured by France. England retaliated by decreeing that any neutral vessels proceeding to any of the forbidden countries were liable to seizure unless they put into a British port and paid Customs dues. The two most prominent issues of this quarrel were for Great Britain the American War of 1812, and for France the immense tragedy of the Moscow campaign.

Modern Business Methods,

aided by the influence of the joint-stock principle, tend towards the elimination of the personal relations between employers and employed, and towards the exclusive study of the dividend. I lately read a report of a pharmacy company's annual meeting at which some of the old spirit seemed to be happily blended with the new conditions. I am sorry to add that it was not an English company. It was the Pharmacie Centrale of France, one of the largest wholesale drug-businesses in the world, whose shareholders are pharmacists only. At the annual meeting held on February 17 last, the director, M. Charles Buchet, explained in some detail the system on which they treat their staff. First, said M. Buchet, we require irreproachable references with every new hand taken into our employment, and the engagement is only definitive after a medical examination and a written acceptance of the regulations of the company. Every employé is required to subscribe two francs a month to a mutual society (sick club), and after six months he or she must pay monthly one-fourth of one day's pay to the Caisse Nationale des Retraites, a provident institution to ensure old-age pensions. To this contribution the company adds one-eighth of a day's pay up to that proportion of a wage of 10*l.* a month. Last year the company paid 490*l.* in these bonuses. The payments enumerated will suffice to ensure to a workman who begins to subscribe at twenty-five, and has a wage of 60*l.* a year, a pension of about 5*8s.* a week when he reaches the age of sixty, and this is augmented by the Pharmacie Centrale if he has been in its service for fifteen years or more. Other relics of patriarchy are a present of 1*l.* and a week's holiday with wages paid in full to every employé who gets married, and if the married couple both belong to the staff, a savings-bank book credited with 1*l.* is presented to every resulting infant. The company also holds three scholarships at superior schools, and awards these to selected children of its employés. In commending this example to British firms and companies, it may be remarked that its value lies less perhaps in the money given than in the provident system inculcated and enforced.

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS."—Without question the most esteemed book of formulas for chemists and druggists. The new edition contains 215 pages more than those which preceded it, and altogether 887 pages. It comprises chapters on toilet preparations and specialties, preparations for the hair, dentifrices, perfumes, household and culinary requisites, beverages, antiseptics and disinfectants, horticultural and agricultural preparations, inks, varnishes, confectionery, photographic chemicals and preparations, galenical and medicinal compounds, bacteriological and microscopic reagents, with an exhaustive index. Besides formulas, the book is a treatise on the subjects dealt with. The new edition, like the others, is officially approved by the Board of Inland Revenue as a well-known book of reference for the purposes of the exemption from medicine-stamp duty in favour of "known, admitted, and approved" remedies. Published by the C. & D. at 10*s.*, by post 10*s.* 6*d.*

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The "Sanitas" Co., Lim.,

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They also Make and Deal in

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"Kingzett's Patent Sulphur Fumigating Candles,"
"Sulphugators," "Formic Sulphugators," "Formic Air Purifiers,"
"Formic Fumigators," "Formic Aldehyde" (40 per cent. Solution, Tablets, and Powder),
Kingzett's Patent Drain Testers, Sheep Dips, Weed Killer
"Sulphume," and "Burnet's Smoke Tests,"
Patent Preserved Peroxide of Hydrogen,
Carbolic Fluids, Powders, and Soaps,
Eucalyptus Oil, and Permanganate of Potash.
"Sanitas" Pamphlet and "How to Disinfect" Book sent free.

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6 & 8 EASTCHEAP, E.C.

RANKIN'S OINTMENT.

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The Chemists' Ointment.

The only Effective Ointment.

The Ointment with 30 years' reputation.

IS A PART 2 POISON.

And may NOT be sold by unqualified dealers.

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No. 1 Finest Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	18/ cwt.	Finest Pure STARCH POWDER	22/ cwt.
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No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	15/ cwt.	Finest Levigated "WHITE EARTH" (Toilet purposes)	18/ cwt.
Finest Compound LIQUORICE POWDER	7 & 10 lb.	Finest Pure TOILET OATMEAL, SPECIAL	32/ cwt.
Finest Pure LIQUORICE JUICE	10/ lb.	Finest ARROWROOT	1/ lb.

2½ per cent. Discount if Cash with Order.

* CARRIAGE PAID to Railway Stations within 200 miles of London (or allowance made for distances beyond) on a total weight of 112 lbs. and upwards of above articles. Smaller parcels delivered free on rail London at above prices.

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Insecticides.
Summer Shade.
Bordeaux Mixture,
&c.

Saleable Lines. Good Profit.
Attractive Advertising.

Tomlinson & Hayward, Ltd., Lincoln.

EIO-O-O is offered for such information as will lead to the conviction of any person substituting imitations for

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Fletcher, Fletcher & Co., London & Sydney.

Editorial Comments.

The Government Poisons Bill.

THE Government Bill, introduced into the House of Lords by the Earl of Crewe on March 8, "to regulate the Sale of certain Poisonous Substances and to amend the Pharmacy Acts" (see p. 429), is quite a different departmental measure from the one which the Privy Council launched twenty years ago, and merits careful consideration by the trade. It applies to Ireland as well as to Great Britain, and proposes to accomplish practically all that the Bill now before the House of Commons is intended to do. We presume, therefore, that when the Bill reaches the House of Commons it and the Pharmacy Bill will be referred to a Select Committee, but chemists should not rely upon this happening; rather should they regard the Bill as one which may become law, and treat it accordingly. The objects of the measure are explained in a memorandum which precedes it, but we give another summary drawn from the point of view of registered chemists:

POISON PROVISIONS.

1. The Bill gives effect to the recommendations of the Privy Council's Committee on poisons by providing for the sale by licensed persons (not being registered under the Pharmacy Acts) of poisonous substances containing arsenic, tobacco, or the alkaloids of tobacco, for use exclusively in connection with agriculture or horticulture.

2. Sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, and soluble salts of oxalic acid may be sold by any person provided the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, are observed.

3. His Majesty in Council (or the Lord-Lieutenant in Ireland) may add to or remove any of the substances in Par. 1, and may add to the substances in Par. 2.

4. The Poisons Schedules of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and of the Poisons (Ireland) Act, 1870, are repealed, and are replaced by a schedule as amended by Orders in Council made under Section 2 of the 1868 Act. [We note, however, that vermin-killers occur in neither part of the schedule.]

SHOP-MANAGEMENT.

Every premises in which a pharmaceutical chemist or a chemist and druggist carries on business must be *bona fide* conducted by himself or by some other pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, and the name of the conductor must be conspicuously posted on the premises. [This does not extend to Ireland, where allied powers already exist.]

COMPANY CHEMISTS.

No company to carry on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist and use these descriptions unless the business is *bona fide* conducted by a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, as the case may be, the name of the person being conspicuously posted on the shop.

The foregoing provision as to shop-management will apply to, and the offences of Sections 15 and 17 of the 1868 Act will be offences if committed by, companies. This does not apply to Ireland, but Section 17 of the 1890 Act (which requires shops for sale of poisons or compounding medical prescriptions to be managed by qualified persons) is applied to companies in Ireland.

EXAMINATION AND RECIPROCITY.

1. Power is given to the Pharmaceutical Society to require by by-law satisfactory evidence of sufficient preliminary practical training from persons presenting themselves for examination.

2. Power is also given to provide by by-law for the registration of persons holding Colonial diplomas.

These provisions apply also to Ireland.

We understand that this Bill has been prepared for some time, and the late Government intended to introduce it had there been an opportunity. It is not a party measure, therefore, a circumstance which favours its acceptance by Parliament, and is pretty certain to make it the basis upon which a Select Committee is likely to work. The principal officers of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have been aware of the contents of this Government Bill, but their Dublin *confrères* have had no official opportunity of learning its contents. So far as the company question is concerned, the latter Society has not attempted to legislate, and has not expressed an opinion regarding the Bloomsbury effort, but we believe the general opinion on this matter is that any legislation on the subject should not depart from the principles enacted in 1868 and 1875, viz. :

I. The titles conferred under these Acts upon individuals as the result of examination are obtainable only by them as individuals.

II. The qualification of the principal is requisite to keeping open shop for the retail and dispensing of poisons (and in Ireland medical prescriptions).

The Government Bill proposes to set aside these principles so far as companies are concerned, and it appears from the memorandum that the provisions of the Bill are regarded as a reversal of the decision in the London and Provincial Supply Association case. We respectfully submit that they are not, and that it is the duty of registered chemists, and of the Societies representing them, to do all in their power to maintain the *status quo*, and prevent the legalisation of usurpation of the above individual rights by companies.

The provisions of the Bill in respect to the sale of poisons are clever. The proposed repeal of Schedule A to the 1868 Act, and the one in the Irish Poisons Act, replacing them by the schedule recommended by the Poisons Committee, gets rid of the vermin-killer entries in both countries, and in Ireland all oxalates, phosphorus and its preparations, and sulphuric ether would no longer be scheduled poisons if the Bill passes; while there would be added to the first part :

All poisonous derivatives of vegetable alkaloids.

Preparations containing 1 per cent. or more of morphine and its salts.

The Irish Schedule would also have added to it certain articles at present in the Great Britain Schedule only. The rights of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland to recommend additions to the schedule are not directly interfered with, but the Privy Councils in both countries have powers to add poisonous substances to the two groups (Pars. 1 and 2 above), which are not subject to the qualification conditions of the 1868 and 1875 Acts. We understand that the enactment of these proposals will be determined by expediency rather than principle. The view of the Government is that, so far as agricultural poisons are concerned, the new provisions will not prejudicially affect the business interests of registered chemists, because licences will not be granted in

places where there are chemists, and elsewhere only on the following conditions :

No poisonous substance shall be kept in any shop or premises where articles of food are stored or kept for sale.

All poisons must be kept in a separate cupboard, away from other goods.

All poisons shall be sold in an enclosed vessel labelled with the word "Poison."

Liquid poisons shall be sold only in bottles or tins easily distinguishable by touch from ordinary bottles or tins.

In granting licences the local authority shall have regard to the facilities already existing in the neighbourhood for the purchase of poisonous compounds.

But it has to be noted that these conditions do not apply to the poisonous substances of the mineral acids class, as to which there is to be no licence requirement, and this class may be added to, but not otherwise modified. The proposals are fraught with danger, in so far as the expert authorities under the existing Acts will have no voice in deciding what articles may be added to the agricultural and mineral acids class. The provisions of the Bill in respect to shop-management are distinctly superior to the complicated proposals in the Bloomsbury Bill; so is the clause dealing with preliminary practical training of examination-candidates and reciprocity. In short, the Bill is a businesslike measure, and, while it is not possible for registered chemists to agree with some of its principles, it is far less hostile to them than we have been led to expect. It is particularly to be noted that the Bill gives not the slightest heed to unqualified persons who have clamoured for legal recognition of their position, such as it is. In several respects the Bill requires verbal correction. Thus it does not completely harmonise the Irish legal conditions with those of Great Britain, and the use of the titles "pharmaceutical chemist" and "chemist and druggist" at branch shops and by companies is not uniformly expressed. There is no doubt that a company cannot use the higher title without having a pharmaceutical chemist as manager, but it does not appear that a pharmaceutical chemist's branch shop requires a pharmaceutical chemist as manager.

The effect of Clauses 2 and 6 is to give a Government Department power to legislate on a subject directly associated with the pharmacy laws of the United Kingdom, and that proposal cannot possibly be acquiesced in by our pharmaceutical authorities. Therefore adequate arrangements should be made forthwith for securing amendment of the Bill before it reaches the House of Commons, especially as no agreement exists for referring both Bills to a Select Committee, and the interests of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland have not been considered.

The Rival Bill.

O sad the hearts in Galen Place,
Despondency submerging glee;
Dare Winfrey look us in the face,
Or Idris sue for pardon free?
O cruel Crewe
To think that you
Should steal our registration-fee.

The P.A.T.A. and Co-ops.

We learn from the Secretary of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association that a gratifying response has been received to the Association's circular-letter to manufacturers regarding the co-operation question. Out of 240 members, more than 200 have definitely decided to adhere to the P.A.T.A.'s resolution; only eleven have intimated their intention to the contrary, and some others await the decision of their principals abroad. The number of articles in the first rank among proprietaries which so far have not been placed on the restricted list is about half a dozen. Independently we learn that non-adherence to the P.A.T.A.

resolution has in practice proved to be a serious matter, when it is known, owing to floods of protests which come from individual dealers. The publication of the P.A.T.A. list of non-adherents will, therefore, be the signal for increased work to the letter-carriers.

Intelligent Anticipation.

[The Pharmacy Bill was introduced a second time by Mr. Winfrey in the House of Commons on Wednesday night, but it was talked out by the Hon. Claude Hay. The Bill is down again for discussion on the same date as that given for the introduction of the Government Poisons Bill in the House of Lords.]

Now, Jesse, Cross, and all the Crewe
Must long and lonely vigil keep;
They'll have much watchful work to do,
For Winfrey's far from being asleep.
His little Bill will not be left
Behind Its rival in the chase,
Although of chances quite bereft
That flourish in "another place."

An Extraordinary Statement.

At Stockport, on March 8, in the course of a case in which a domestic servant was charged with attempting to commit suicide, Dr. Marriott said the girl had obtained laudanum and aniseed, with which she attempted suicide, from a chemist's shop, saying it was for a baby. The chemist told him that it was a common mixture for babies, who were peculiarly susceptible to the effects of opium. Over 15,000 babies were done to death each year by this so-called "mother's friend," which was eminently adapted to increase infantile mortality. So Dr. Marriott stated in court. We cannot report so extraordinary a statement without questioning its accuracy. Confining ourselves solely to England and Wales, we find that in the year 1903 the total number of deaths from opium, laudanum, and morphia was 135, of which 51 were suicides. That gives 84 accidental deaths of persons of all ages from opium poisoning. Dr. Marriott's figure is 15,000 babies. If that be so, why are the deaths not investigated? In any case, how does Dr. Marriott arrive at his figures?

Ocular.

Some pharmacists worry and seek for their ills
The aid of the glib politician,
While others forswear all proprietary pills
And cringe to the learned physician;
But the wise cry, "Enough—
Follow Cornish and Cuff
And become a sound chemist-optician."

Scots Law Revision.

To those who like strange and quaint reading, and a good thirteennyworth thereof, we commend the Statute Law Revision (Scotland) Bill now before Parliament and published this week. It repeals many enactments appertaining to Scotland, and dating back to May 26, 1424, when a Parliament of James I. sat in Perth. There are in the 128 pages of the Bill things that will make the average Scotsman girn and greet at the very idea that he has lived his life in the Auld Countrie under pains and penalties which are really mediæval. We note that there is a 1424 Act "anent hospitalis," and that the drug-trade in Scotland, like others who buy and sell, has not been entirely freed from Acts of 1425, "anent mesuris" and "anent wechtis," as well as one of the following year, "*assisa de ponderibus et mensuris*." There are a great number of Acts dealing with "the fredome of haly Kirk," but one of the most curious coincidences is that on March 13, 1438, it was decided at Stirling to "hald twa sessionis yerly"; and on March 13, 1906, a Scots Premier was telling an audience what is necessary in the Parliamentary procedure of to-day. On May 4, 1450, two Acts were passed by a General Council

at Perth dealing respectively with "the bringing in of poyson be ony person of the realme" and "by strangearis." We are pleased to observe the Lord Advocate says these are "obsolete, and probably in desuetude," for, were they not, Scotch wholesale houses might have resurrected them as a weapon against their competitors on this side of the border, who are still "strangearis" in Scots law. Moreover and whatever was it not enacted on October 9, 1466, "that na Inglis man have benefice within Scotland"? It is strange to observe that some of these fifteenth-century Acts of Parliament are now only repealed in part!

Pharmacy for the Pharmacist.

In these days, when the trifling legal privileges which registered chemists possess are of such uncertain stability, and even the Government of the day, moved by two permanent Departments, is attempting to extinguish such privileges as there are, it is refreshing to meet with a pharmacist whose optimism prompts him to ask for more. We had a chat the other day with Mr. F. R. Bessant, Westgate-on-Sea, who at the next meeting of the Thanet Chemists' Association is to submit the following motion:

This Association is of opinion that, considering the trouble and expense to which the chemist and druggist is put in qualifying, he does not receive that protection and support from the Government to which he is entitled; and, for this reason, and for the safety of the public, urges the Pharmaceutical Society to take steps to promote a Bill in Parliament to restrict the sale of drugs, medicines, and all medicinal preparations to the qualified chemist and druggist.

We daresay there are many who sympathise with Mr. Bessant's statement. It is a fact that for more than a generation the Privy Council's representatives at the Pharmaceutical Society's examinations have been reporting yearly to the Council that the qualifying examination is what is required for the purpose intended—viz., use of the title chemist and druggist—and for the purpose of keeping open shop for retailing and dispensing poisons. It is for the Government to reconcile these reports with the present effort to create a class of potent-poison retailers with no qualification whatever. That effort is the best indication of the forlorn nature of Mr. Bessant's aspirations.

Contract-prices for Disinfectants.

The variation in the prices tendered by different manufacturing firms for supplies of disinfectants was dealt with at a recent meeting of the Hammersmith Borough Council. A tabulated statement prepared by the borough accountant showed the prices quoted and the approximate amount of each tender based upon the estimated quantities required during the year. The first article tendered for was crude carbolic acid at per gal., the estimated quantity required being 24 gals. In that case the prices of sixteen tenderers ranged from 9½d. to 1s. 6d. per gal. For 2-ton quantities of carbolic powder the prices offered varied from 27. 4s. 6d. to 47. 10s. per ton. But the greatest discrepancy was shown in the tenders for the supply of carbolic powder in 1-lb. packets, the estimated quantity required being 150 gross, and the prices given as follows at per gross:

	£	s.	d.
A. C. Young & Co.	0	4	2
Adcock, Easton & Co.	0	4	3
Forbes, Abbott & Lennard	0	4	0
Sanitas Co.	0	6	0
J. Boulton & Co.	0	10	0
Snowdon, Sons & Co.	0	12	0
Savannah Chemical Co.	0	12	0
Grindley & Co.	0	12	0
G. Jennings	0	12	6
Tuson's Disinfectants Co.	0	14	6
L. Lumley & Co.	0	15	3
F. W. Hurst	0	18	6
A. V. Waters	0	18	0
Burt, Boulton & Haywood	1	4	0
F. F. Witton	1	5	0
Sanitoline Manufacturing Co.	1	17	0

The total amount of the lowest tender in the aggregate is thus 367. 13s., and there is a wide margin between that sum and 2387. 6s.—the highest figure—which requires some explanation.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill.

Introduced into the House of Lords on March 8 by the Earl of Crewe, Lord President of Council, and read a first time.

MEMORANDUM.

Clause 1 carries into effect the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the sale of poisonous substances as to what substances should be treated as poisons. It does little more than substitute for the schedule of poisons contained in the Act of 1868 that schedule as amended by Orders in Council made under section 2 of that Act.

The object of clause 2 is to authorise persons (who are not chemists), if licensed for the purpose by the local authority, to sell sheep dips, weed killers, and other poisonous substances for use in connexion with agriculture and horticulture. The Departmental Committee made a recommendation to this effect.

Clause 3 requires that where a chemist's business is carried on in two or more shops, the business should be conducted by a duly qualified manager in every shop where the chemist does not himself superintend the business.

Clause 4 reverses the decision of the court in *The Pharmaceutical Society v. The London and Provincial Supply Association*, 5 App. Cas. 857. In that case it was decided that the provisions contained in the Act of 1868, prohibiting persons not being qualified chemists from selling poisons, were not applicable to companies.

Clause 5 somewhat extends the bylaw-making power of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Clause 6 places restrictions on the sale of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, soluble salts of oxalic acid, and similar poisons, without however limiting the class of persons by whom such poisons may be sold.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

Clause.

1. Amendment of 31 & 32 Vict. c. 121. Schedule A.
2. Regulation of sale of certain poisonous substances for agricultural and horticultural purposes.
3. Amendment of 31 & 32 Vict. c. 121, s. 15.
4. Application of Pharmacy Acts to companies.
5. Extension of powers of Pharmaceutical Society to make byelaws.
6. Restrictions on sale of certain mineral acids.
7. Application to Ireland.
8. Short title and commencement.

SCHEDULE.

A B I L L INTITULED

An Act to regulate the sale of certain Poisonous Substances and to amend the Pharmacy Acts.

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. Schedule A. to the Pharmacy Act, 1868 (which specifies the articles to be deemed poisons within the meaning of that Act), is hereby repealed, and the schedule to this Act shall be substituted therefor.

2.—(1) So much of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as makes it an offence for any person to sell or keep open shop for poisons, unless he is a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist and conforms to regulations made under section one of that Act, shall not apply in the case of poisonous substances containing arsenic, tobacco, or the alkaloids of tobacco, for use exclusively in connexion with agriculture or horticulture, if the person so selling or keeping open shop is duly licensed for the purpose under this section by a local authority, and conforms to any regulations as to the keeping, transporting, and selling of poisons made under this section, but nothing in this section shall exempt any person so licensed from the requirements of any other provision of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, or of the Arsenic Act, 1851, relating to poisons.

Provided that His Majesty may by Order in Council amend this provision by adding thereto or removing therefrom any poisonous substance, and upon any such Order being made this provision shall have effect as if the added poisonous substances were included therein and the removed poisonous substances were excluded therefrom.

(2) His Majesty may, by Order in Council, make regulations as to—

(a) the granting of licences under this section and the local authorities by which such licences may be granted; and

- (b) the duration, renewal, revocation, suspension, extent and production of such licences; and
- (c) the keeping, inspection, and copying of registers of licences; and
- (d) the fees to be charged for licences and for inspection and copying of registers; and
- (e) the keeping, transporting, and selling of the poisonous substances to which this section applies;

and generally for the purposes of carrying this section into effect.

(3) An Order in Council under this section shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after it is made.

3. Any person who, being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, carries on the business of pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist shall, unless in every premises where the business is carried on the business is bona fide conducted by himself or some other duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, as the case may be, and unless the name of the person by whom the business is so conducted in any premises is conspicuously posted in the premises, be guilty of an offence under section fifteen of the Pharmacy Act, 1868.

4. No company registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900, shall carry on the business or use the description of a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, unless the business is bona fide conducted by a manager or assistant being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist

or chemist and druggist, as the case may be, nor unless the name of the person so qualified is conspicuously posted in the shop or other place in which the business is carried on; subject as aforesaid anything which would be an offence under section fifteen or section seventeen of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, if committed by an individual, shall be an offence under those sections if committed by a company.

5. The power of making byelaws conferred by section two of the Pharmacy Act, 1852, on the council of the Pharmaceutical Society shall be deemed to include the power of making byelaws for all or any of the following purposes (that is to say):—

- (a) Requiring persons presenting themselves for examination by the said society to produce evidence satisfactory to the society that they have received a sufficient preliminary practical training;
- (b) Providing for the registration, upon payment of the prescribed fee, as pharmaceutical chemists or chemists and druggists under the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, without examination, of any persons holding colonial diplomas who produce evidence satisfactory to the society that they are persons of sufficient skill and knowledge to be so registered.

6. (1) It shall not be lawful to sell any poison to which this section applies by retail, unless the box, bottle, vessel, wrapper, or cover in which the poison is contained is distinctly labelled with the name of the substance and the word "Poison," and with the name and address of the seller of the poison, and unless such other regulations as may be prescribed under this section by Order in Council are complied with; and if any persons sells any such poison otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this section or of any Order in Council made thereunder, he shall, on conviction under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, be liable for each offence to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

(2) The poisons to which this section applies are sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, soluble salts of oxalic acid, and such other substances as may for the time being be prescribed by Order in Council under this section.

7. This Act, except sections three and four thereof, shall apply to Ireland subject to the following modifications:—

(a) For references to the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, or either of them, there shall be substituted references to the Poisons (Ireland) Act, 1870, the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, and the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875. Amendment Act, 1890, and for references to particular provisions of the first-mentioned Acts shall be substituted references to the corresponding provisions of the last-mentioned Acts, and in particular for the reference to Schedule A. to the Pharmacy Act, 1868,

shall be substituted a reference to Schedule A. to the Poisons (Ireland) Act, 1870, and for the reference to section two of the Pharmacy Act, 1852, shall be substituted a reference to section sixteen of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875:

- (b) For the reference to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, there shall be substituted a reference to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland;
- (c) For references to Orders in Council by His Majesty there shall be substituted references to Orders in Council by the Lord Lieutenant;
- (d) Section seventeen of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, Amendment Act, 1890, shall apply where the persons keeping open shop are a company.

8. This Act may be cited as the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1906, and shall come into operation on the first day of January nineteen hundred and seven.

SCHEDULE.

PART I.

Arsenic and its preparations.
Alkaloids—all poisonous vegetable alkaloids and their salts, and all poisonous derivatives of vegetable alkaloids.
Aconite and its preparations.
Atropine and its preparations.
Cantharides.
Cocaine and its salts.
Corrosive sublimate.
Cyanide of potassium and all metallic cyanides and their preparations.
Emetic tartar.
Ergot of rye and its preparations.
Morphine and its salts and preparations containing one or more per cent. of morphine.
Picrotoxin.
Prussic acid and its preparations.
Savin and its oil.
Strychnine and its preparations.

PART. II.

Almonds, essential oil of (unless deprived of prussic acid).
Belladonna and its preparations.
Cantharides, tincture and all vesicating liquid preparations of.
Carbolic acid and liquid preparations of carbolic acid and its homologues containing more than three per cent. of those substances, except preparations for use as sheep wash or for any other purpose in connexion with agriculture or horticulture, contained in a closed vessel distinctly labelled with the word "Poison," the name and address of the seller, and a notice of the special purposes for which the preparations are intended.
Chloral hydrate and its preparations.
Chloroform.
Cocaine, preparations of.
Corrosive sublimate, preparations of.
Digitalis and its preparations.
Morphine, preparations of, containing less than one per cent.
Nux vomica and its preparations.
Opium, and all preparations of opium and poppies.
Oxalic acid.
Precipitate, red.
Precipitate, white.
Mercuric iodide.
Mercuric sulphocyanide.
Strophanthus and its preparations.

Festivities.

Great Yarmouth Dines.

THE annual dinner of the Great Yarmouth Pharmaceutical Association was held in the Association rooms on March 8. The President (Mr. Harvey Palmer) presided, and all the members were present. After dinner Mr. W. G. Poll entertained the company with his gramophone, card games and smoking filling up the evening.

Brighton Junior Pharmacy Club.

THE annual dinner of this club was held at Poole's Restaurant, St. James Street, on March 5, and was followed by a smoking-concert. The President (Mr. Shelton) was in the chair, supported by Mr. Sutton (Vice-President). Covers were laid for forty, and after the dinner, and the toast of "The King," proposed by the President, the company enjoyed the singing of Messrs. Harvey Houlday, Hughes, Neale, Parkes, Stevens, Taylor, and Tofts. Mr. Sutton

having proposed a vote of thanks to the artistes, to which Mr. Harvey suitably and amusingly responded, the company parted after an enjoyable evening.

An Oldham Dinner.

THE Oldham and District Pharmaceutical Association held a dinner at the Oriental Café, Oldham, on Tuesday, March 13, to celebrate its inauguration. Mr. J. Lees (President) occupied the chair, and was supported by Messrs. C. G. Wood (Vice-President), C. Gartside (Secretary), R. M. Crosdale (Treasurer), T. R. Swinburne (Messrs. Allen & Hanburys), and many others. The toast-list was short. "The Pharmaceutical Society" was proposed by Mr. R. M. Crosdale, and Mr. C. Gartside replied. After dinner an excellent musical programme was provided, Messrs. Ellis, Swinburne, C. G. Wood, J. E. Wood, T. Marlor, S. Hyde, F. Newby, and E. Kirby contributing to the general enjoyment. Their services were much appreciated. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Swinburne, proposed by the President.

Newcastle-on-Tyne Chemists' Association.

THE annual smoking-concert was held at the Hôtel Métropole, Clayton Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Wednesday evening, March 14. There was a good attendance, Mr. Gilderdale presiding. The committee responsible for the arrangements consisted of Messrs. Gilderdale, Ridley, Dakers, Kerse, Gray, Cubey, Dean, and Pescod (Secretary). The programme was admirable, and opened with a quartette by Messrs. J. T. Kerse, Gibson, Liddle, and Potts. The "Yeoman's Wedding Song" was ably rendered by Mr. Potts, a rising young bass. Mr. Ellison took the character of Wilfred Denver in the dream scene in "The Silver King." Other songs were given by Messrs. Dewey Gibson, J. T. Kerse, Liddle, McFarlane, and M. Porter. Mr. C. E. Layne, Hon. Solicitor to the Association, gave, as usual, one of his humorous speeches, and Mr. R. H. Bell, President of the Sunderland Pharmaceutical Association, told some stories. Mr. Davies was an efficient pianist. It was announced that the Secretary had received a communication from Mr. Foggan (ex-President), regretting inability—owing to Masonic business—to be present, but had sent a postal-order as contribution to the collection for the Benevolent Fund, which amounted to 3*l.* 11*s.*

An Inter-pharmacy Smoke.

THE smoking-concert in connection with the Inter-Pharmacy Football League was held in the Crown Room of the Holborn Restaurant on March 14, with Professor Herbert Jackson in the chair. There was a large attendance, and the proceedings were enthusiastic throughout. In the course of the evening the Chairman presented the League Cup and medals to the members of the "Square" team, who are the winners of the Cup for the year. Professor Jackson roused great delight by declaring himself a footballer of many years' standing. He was quite convinced that clean-living and clean-limbed athletes exercised more good in the general community than men who could simply pass examinations and do nothing else. In response to loud calls for a speech, Mr. Bellamy, captain of the "Square" team, thanked the Professor for his laudatory remarks and the meeting for their enthusiastic endorsement. Thereafter medals (given by Mr. H. Wootton, Principal of the London College of Pharmacy) were presented to the "runners-up," which happened this year to be the team belonging to Mr. Wootton's own school. Mr. Evans, captain of the "London" team, had also to make a speech, which he did, amid general appreciation. The excellent musical programme was under the able direction of Mr. Sydney Jamieson, who himself sang several times. Other artistes were Mr. Harry Greene, Mr. Frank Hook (an effectively entertaining humorist), Mr. Alexander Prince (whose concertina solos are always enjoyable), Mr. W. Edward Kaye (a quick-change artist of ability), and Mr. Sidney Gandy (ventriloquist). The accompanist was Mr. Eustace Wallace.

ASEPSIS IN INDIA.—Major E. A. R. Norman, I.M.S., has a book in the press on "Aseptic Surgery in India." The author has made a special study of the serious drawbacks with which surgeons in India must necessarily contend. The publishers are Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

Winter Session of Chemists' Local Associations.

Association Presidents.

THE Cardiff and District Pharmaceutical Association presents the rare combination in the presidency and secretarial offices



MR. A. J. BELLAMY.

being filled by apprentice and apprentice-master. Mr. Archibald John Bellamy, the President, was in 1886 apprenticed to Mr. Richard Mumford, the Hon. Secretary of the Association, and received an excellent training from him, which is now reflected in the Bellamy's conduct in the chair. After his apprenticeship he was an assistant with Messrs. Morgan & Lewley, Kidderminster; Cheverton, Tunbridge Wells; and Hunt, Winchester. He passed the Minor in 1893, then went to Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co.'s pharmacy at 7 Poultry, E.C., which was taken over by Mr. A. W. Waring, with whom Mr. Bellamy remained until 1897, when he commenced business on his own account at 61 Paget Street, Cardiff. Mr. Bellamy has taken the keenest interest in the local Association since its formation, and was elected on the first committee and each one since.

Harrogate Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING was held on March 9, Mr. R. Hayton Davis, F.C.S., presiding. There were also present the Mayor of Harrogate, Dr. Williams, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Smith, Messrs. Atkinson, Battle, Eynon, Handford, Hines, Leak, Morrell, Ridge, Walker, and Weston. The business of the meeting was a paper on "Standardisation," by Mr. William Kirkby, F.C.S. (Manchester), and a discussion followed.

Bath Pharmaceutical Association.

At the meeting held on Thursday, March 8, Mr. A. C. Olds appealed to chemists to do their very utmost for the Federation Parliamentary Fund. The Pharmacy Bill now before the House is very badly needed, he said, and if anything is to be done they must be prepared to pay for it. He strongly recommended the proposition of appointing a young barrister (a M.P.) with a retaining fee to look after chemists' interests there. They had good friends in Mr. Winfrey and Mr. Idris, but could not be sure that they would always be there. He trusted the proposed meeting of delegates in April would be held, and that a good workable scheme for administering the fund would be the result. It was decided to send a donation to the fund. Mr. J. W. Sampson introduced a discussion on early closing for the summer months, and it was resolved, providing the whole of the chemists fell into line, to close at two o'clock on Thursdays during June, July, August, and September.

Brighton Association of Pharmacy.

AN instructive and interesting lecture was given before this Association on March 8 by Mr. C. G. Skyrme, pharmaceutical chemist, St. Leonards, on "The Visit of the British Association to South Africa." The members of the Brighton and Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society had been invited to come to the lecture, and many availed themselves of the opportunity. In the absence of Mr. W. H. Gibson (the President) the chair was taken by Mr. J. R. Gwatkin. Mr. Skyrme accompanied the British Association last year to South Africa, and took a good many photographs of objects of interest, which he showed at the meeting by means of an optical lantern. The hospitality experienced was at times overwhelming, and altogether the visitors saw everything under the best conditions. Considerable interest was shown in the views of the Zambesi Falls and the Victoria Bridge. Incidentally it was mentioned that at a marriage-ceremony the bridesmaids carried white staves in their hands, which, on closer inspection, turned out to be rolled-up posters advertising a well-known backache-pill.

Mr. Gwatkin proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by Mr. Geo. Davey on behalf of the Natural History Society, and carried with applause.

Liverpool Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held on Thursday evening, March 8, at the Royal Institution, the President (Mr. Prosper H. Marsden, F.C.S.) in the chair, at which a lecture of a popular character was delivered by Dr. Stenhouse Williams on "Immunity." In the course of it Dr. Williams exhibited lantern-slides showing the preparation of serums, and gave full explanations. The President proposed a vote of thanks, which Dr. Symes and Messrs. A. C. Abraham, R. C. Cowley, and J. T. Hornblower supported.

Guildford Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held on March 7, Mr. Tavener (Guildford) in the chair.

The Secretary was instructed to convey to Mr. W. H. Cowan (M.P. for the division) the thanks of the Association for his services in backing the Pharmacy Bill.

B. W. & Co.'s PRICES.—Correspondence was read from the Eastbourne Chemists' Association *re* B. W. & Co.'s prices. It was resolved that the members of the Guildford Association urge upon Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. the necessity of a protected retail price for their goods.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held on March 14, at the Victoria Hotel. Mr. Geo. S. Woolley, the President, was in the chair during the earlier part of the meeting, but, having to leave, his place was taken by Mr. W. Kirkby, one of the Vice-Presidents. Mr. Dorran, chemist, Old Trafford, and Dr. Booth, Swan Street, were elected members of the Association.

The meeting then discussed trade topics, the discussion being focussed chiefly on the price of proprietary medicines. The custom of asking people what they have paid before for any particular prescription was condemned as inviting the customer to prevaricate. The practice of making differential charges between apparently rich and apparently poor persons was condemned as a great mistake.

West Ham Chemists' Association.

THE third annual meeting of this Association was held at Earlam Hall, Forest Gate, on March 8, Mr. W. Potter (President) in the chair.

B. W. & Co.'s PRICES.—A resolution was passed as follows: "That this meeting of the West Ham and District Chemists' Association expresses its disapproval of the action of Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. in refusing to join the P.A.T.A. and considers their system of protection ineffectual."

ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary next read his report, which was a *résumé* of the year's work.—The President regretted the falling-off of members, and hoped that each member would try to obtain new members. The balance-sheet, through the donation of Mr. Holford, showed a balance in hand of 5*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* The reports were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—On a ballot for President, Mr. Harold Mitchell was unanimously elected. The retiring President, Mr. W. Potter, becomes Vice-President according to Rule 3. Messrs. Matthews, Forbes, Parker, Soper, and Johnson were elected on the committee. The Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. R. Barnes, was re-elected, also the two auditors, Messrs. Blades and Cleland. Votes of thanks and slight alteration in the rules filled in the rest of the meeting.

Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association.

THE sixty-eighth annual meeting of this Association was held in Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, on March 7, the President (Mr. A. L. Bruce) in the chair.

REPORTS.—The report of the Secretary (Mr. John Black)

was to the effect that the membership showed a slight decrease during the year, but the average attendance (thirteen in a membership of fifty) had been maintained. "This calls for no comment," caustically runs the report, "further than that the average might, with little difficulty, be increased." After detailing the meetings, the success of the annual outing at Potarch in June, and of the supper in February, reference was made to the death of Mr. Alexander Strachan, who for twenty years took an active interest in the Association. The report of the Treasurer (Mr. William Giles) intimated a balance in hand of 55*l.* 4*s.*

EDUCATIONAL.—Mr. James Spence, Convener of the Education Committee, reported that, no candidates having presented themselves for examination, no scholarships were awarded during the year. This, he commented, was not surprising, in view of the comparative scarcity of apprentices. The rules regarding the scholarships were amended during the past session. The school of pharmacy continues to be well attended, and shows a satisfactory percentage of passes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—The election of officers for the ensuing session resulted as follows: President, Mr. A. L. Bruce; Vice-President, Mr. James Spence; Treasurer, Mr. James Paterson; Secretary, Mr. William Reid, 100 Holburn Street, Aberdeen.

North Staffs Chemists' Association.

A MONTHLY MEETING of this Association was held on March 8 at Stoke-on-Trent, Mr. J. Averill (President) in the chair. There were also present Messrs. W. Marson and Edmund Jones (Vice-Presidents), T. Bentley, Hon. Secretary (Stoke-on-Trent), J. B. Blades and H. Blades (Leek), R. G. Emery and H. Percy Jones (Stoke), A. F. Bottomley (Hanley), G. Hampton (Armour & Co., Leicester), T. C. Cornwell (Hanley), W. Brinson (Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd.), S. C. Challinor (Fenton), and F. C. Burrell (Hanley).

Mr. R. T. Gill (Shelton) was elected a member.

THE PHARMACY BILL.

The President said he had seen it stated that half the members of the House are in favour of the Bill, and he hoped it would pass its second reading and be sent to Committee.

Mr. Marson (Mayor of Stafford) intimated that Medical and Dental Bills are to be introduced shortly, and he thought chemists ought to keep their eye upon these Bills.

Mr. Emery (Stoke) having spoken, Mr. Blades (Leek) denounced companies trading as chemists. Why did not they call themselves marine-store dealers or stationers? Some of these company chemists were imitating Whiteley's. (Laughter.) Chemists should work hard to protect their title, and have no compromise with the company traders. He believed that in the present Labour party they had men who would help the qualified chemist to protect his title. The Labour men know how to protect their own trades, and would have sympathy with the chemists in this matter.

Mr. W. Hampton (Leicester) said if the doctors will not give up dispensing, then he advised the chemists to prescribe for all they were worth. The ignorance of medical men as regards the drug-trade is, he declared, profound. He found also an astonishing amount of ignorance among M.P.s as to company trading and the difficulties under which the qualified chemist labours.

Mr. Emery said that when he interviewed Mr. Coghill, the late M.P. for Stoke-on-Trent, he expressed himself as astonished to learn that companies could do what they could with only one qualified man.

Mr. T. C. Cornwell regretted that dentistry is now being largely carried on by unqualified men. He welcomed the strong opposition of Messrs. Beets to the new Pharmacy Bill: a good opposition keeps the other side up to scratch. He thought it a disgrace and a menace to the chemists that more do not join the P.A.T.A., and regretted that there are so many chemists willing to take all the advantages and do nothing themselves.

Mr. Edmund Jones contended that any air of compromise over the Pharmacy Bill is not due to the Pharmaceutical Council, but to the mover of the Bill. If the Pharmaceutical Society pressed for a compulsory curriculum, it might create a very undesirable opposition. If students have to

produce certificates of attendance, he thought the North Staffs Association should see that some local schools are recognised, so that students could obtain their certificate qualification at those schools.

Mr. Brinson said Longton reeks with unqualified men, and he thought they could find some at Fenton.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.—The President introduced the question of the date of the annual dinner and meeting, suggesting October instead of April.—The second Thursday in October was eventually fixed as the date. Mr. Blades suggested a "social" for April, and promised to get some good talent.

PRICE-PROTECTION.—Mr. Marson announced that the P.A.T.A. is making good headway in other trades besides chemists. The matter had, in fact, been discussed at the Stafford Traders' Association that afternoon. He hoped they would bring pressure to bear on Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. to put their articles on the P.A.T.A.

Mr. Cornwell said Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. have increased the prices of some articles lately, and he thought that was done with a view to larger discounts.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

A MEETING was held at 73 Newman Street, W., on March 8. Seventeen members were present. The President (Mr. A. G. C. Paterson) occupied the chair. Dr. Atkin-Swan delivered a breezy lecture on

NEW THERAPEUTIC REMEDIES.

Most of the new products of the last few years, he said, are not particularly beneficial to anybody except the manufacturers, but some few he had examined and tested, largely from the point of view of internal asepis, which is his hobby. He first referred to some iron-preparations. The Bynin and iron compound he had used with great success in cases where Easton's syrup was not tolerated. These preparations are given with great comfort to the patients, provided their digestion keeps in order; but the great trouble is the malt. He got over this by adding sodium benzoate as a disinfectant. In this connection he asked why chemists in this country make up glycerophosphates with syrup which ferments. Glycerin would cause no such trouble. The only reason he could think of is that it increases the demand for liver pills. Another iron-preparation is triferrin. On objecting to the name, he was told by the makers that it is so called because it makes three times as much blood in the liver as there was before its use. He has found that it does raise the percentage of haemoglobin and haematin in the blood, and gives rise to no digestive trouble. He believes it contains iron, a little free phosphorus, and nucleic acid, which is one of the strongest antiseptics. Dr. Atkin Swan believes that the acne troubles which follow the administration of iron-preparations are due to their decomposition. Surely, he said, some enterprising pharmacist is capable of giving a preparation of iron and phosphorus, and making it not only sterile, but aseptic, so that no fermentation may occur. In anaemia Dr. Swan has found it beneficial to give iodine with iron, instead of a thyroid preparation. In a case of acute aseptic-poisoning he had given half-minim doses of formalin every four hours with great success. Another article he had tested was a preparation of a glycerophosphate and formate of sodium, which, volume for volume, has ten times the strength of kola in increasing vigour and building up muscular tissue; but it has the disadvantage of acting as a powerful aphrodisiac. Dr. Swan referred to the success he had met with in the use of fructol, heroin, styptol (a cotarnine preparation), somnogen (a soporific which causes sleep without contraction of the pupils), and jothion (which he had painted on the knee, and found in the urine seven hours after). He had several suggestions to make. He would erect a statue to the maker of hypodermic cases who would include a small tube of vaseline to prevent the needle rusting. In cases of irritable hearts it is only possible to give two-minim doses of convallaria, which necessitates half-hourly administrations. Why not put a full dose of the cardiac remedy in large and fairly stiff gelatin or glyco-gelatin pastille, as is done in the case of throat medicaments? It would then take several hours to absorb. Strychnine is a drug which has no dose, declared Dr. Swan.

If a large dose be given in a pill which disintegrates, violent stomach-ache is the result; but if it be given in a pastille, he finds it is tolerated. As a further precaution, 3 gr. of chloral hydrate for every gr. $\frac{1}{3}$ of strychnine will, he said, neutralise gastric disturbances. Dr. Swan then exhibited an apparatus for utilising the antiseptic properties of radioactive emanations, in which air is inspired or pumped through a solution of thorium nitrate. In sixty out of seventy-three tuberculous cases which he has been able to trace absolute benefit has been derived by the inhalation. It has also been found effective in gonorrhœa and bronchopneumonia. Thorium is used instead of radium because it is cheaper and its action is more controllable.

A prolonged discussion followed.

Huddersfield Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this association was held at the Queen Hotel, Huddersfield, on March 13, the President (Mr. Walshaw) in the chair. There was a large attendance.

P.A.T.A.—On the suggestion of the President, a resolution was passed approving of the action of the P.A.T.A. in taking steps to prevent the failure of the principles for which that body was established.

SIGHT-TESTING OPTICIANS.

Mr. J. Harcombe Cuff, Secretary of the Society of Chemist-Opticians, then delivered a lecture on the above subject. Sight-testing opticians or refractionists, said Mr. Cuff, are divided into three classes—chemists, jewellers, and a few who are opticians only. Up to a comparatively recent period the work was done in a very slipshod manner; but now, thanks largely to the examinations of the Spectaclemakers' Company, a great change has come over matters, and it is realised that the work of a refractionist is very important, and requires considerable scientific knowledge and technical skill. The present-day sight-testing optician represents the latest development of the old-time spectacle-maker. As long as refractionists worked on the old low level no opposition was offered by medical men; but as soon as an effort is made to raise the optician's position in order to enable him to properly meet the demands of the public, a section of the medical journals started the cry that the opticians are infringing their rights. Mr. Cuff went on to say that such opinions were not general in the medical profession. General practitioners were only too glad to work in harmony with chemists. The lecturer then described in detail a human eye, its methods of performing its functions, and the conditions that necessitate the aid of glasses. When an eye looks at anything, rays of light coming from the object pass through the cornea, undergoing a certain amount of refraction. Some of these rays impinge on the iris, and are absorbed or reflected; others penetrate the pupil, undergoing further refraction in passing through the crystalline lens, and form a small inverted image of the object on the retina. That image is one thing for the sight-testing optician to interest



MR. J. HARCOMBE CUFF.

himself in. Where the image is perfect and produced in an easy, natural manner, he is not wanted, whether the person can see or not; but should the image not be properly formed, or, what is more important, if it is formed by straining, then there is work for the optician or the medical man, or for both. The principal defects of the refractive system are hypermetropia, or long sight; myopia, or short sight; astigmatism, or mixed sight; anisometropia, or unequal sight; and presbyopia, or old sight. Mr. Cuff then dealt with the method of correcting these errors, and gave some details regarding the Spectacle-

makers' Company, the body whose examination scheme has so largely benefited the opticians of the country. The company was founded in 1699, though, of course, the craft was very much older than that. It exercised control over its trade similar to that exercised by the Goldsmiths' Company in the hall-marking, for every piece of glass sold had to bear the stamp of the company. In 1656 every apprentice had first to prove his skill before the Master and Warden before being allowed to work as a journeyman; and after serving three years as a journeyman he had again to prove his skill before being admitted as a freeman, allowed to trade as a master, or to take apprentices. That was evidently the first attempt at examination and certification in the optical trade. The company had never lost touch with the trade. In 1896 Mr. W. H. E. Thornthwaite submitted an examination scheme, the idea of which was that all who passed it would have a good general knowledge of optics and of the principles involved in sight-testing. That subject was not, however, added until later. He held that the chemists and jewellers owed a great deal to the S.M.C. as to the broad view it had always taken of what constitutes an optician. It had practically refused to narrow the term down to those who dealt in optical goods, but had admitted to its examinations all who dealt in them, whether alone or in conjunction with other goods. Mr. Cuff concluded by giving some particulars regarding the Society of Chemist-Opticians, which he was specially representing that night. When it was founded in June 1904 it had 29 members, and now it numbered 197 members, 51 associates and 16 assistants. The subscription is small, and it is only by a large membership that the work of the Society can be successfully accomplished. "There are many things waiting to be done," said Mr. Cuff, "and if the Society continues growing at its present rate it will soon be strong enough to attack, at any rate, some of them. We want all chemist-opticians to join it. We want the qualified men, that the S.M.C. interest may always be strong in the Society; and we want the unqualified men, so that if young they may qualify also, or, if that is not possible, that we may have the advantage of their interest on the side of progress."

Mr. Stephens complimented the lecturer on the able manner in which he had dealt with his subject. Nowadays those desirous of achieving success as opticians have fewer difficulties to contend with than was the case some years ago. One of the first lessons he had had to undertake was to learn what not to do. In years gone by eyesight-testing was done by rule-o'-thumb methods; and there still existed a large class who conducted their business on similar lines, and who, after extorting money, supplied spectacles altogether wrong. Even as a hobby the subject of sight-testing is interesting. The opposition of medical men had in places been keen and bitter, but the examinations had resulted in breaking down many barriers.

Mr. Beaumont (Lindley) and others bore testimony to the value of the lecture (which was illustrated by lantern-slides), and a resolution of thanks to Mr. Cuff was cordially agreed to. Mr. Akram, the lanternist, was also thanked for his services.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re ALBERT PRIESTLEY, residing at Sunny Bank, Lidget Green, and carrying on business at Hollings Mills, Grattan Road, Bradford, Machinery-merchant, and also carrying on business as the Anæmia Pill Co.—The public examination of the debtor took place at the Bradford Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday, when, in reference to his pill business, he stated that his expenses in connection with the business would be about 14*l.* a week, and they varied a good deal according to the cost of advertising. One of his means of advertising was to send from house to house two women dressed as nurses who carried samples of these pills with them and distributed handbills. The examination was closed.

Re JAMES OGILVIE MOULSON, 2 St. Margaret's Road, Great Horton Road, Bradford, Chemist and Druggist.—A meeting of the creditors was held on March 13 at the offices of the Official Receiver for Bradford (Mr. Chas. L. Atkinson). It was stated by the representative of the landlord that the debtor had under-estimated the amount due to him for rent, and the Official Receiver intimated that the amount would be corrected when the debt was proved in detail. It was stated

that the debtor's wife was entitled to a sum of 500*l.* insurance upon the death of her mother, but that there was no suggestion of the debtor being able to obtain from any source means to enable him to go on with the business. The Official Receiver undertook to endeavour to sell the business as a going concern, and the matter was left in his hands for winding up under the summary administration clauses. The debtor appeared at the Bradford Bankruptcy Court on March 14 for his public examination. He stated that he was solvent nine years ago, when he sold his Bridge Street business and continued business only at St. Margaret's Road; but he had been short of capital ever since, and consequently had not been able to get a sufficient variety of stock to meet the needs of his customers. He estimated the average turnover at his shop for the last eighteen months at about 3*l.* per week, and the profit on it had only been sufficient to enable him to live and to pay little bits on account of his trading debts. He had not kept any books. Part of the furniture in his house belonged to his wife absolutely, having been given to her before her marriage, or being wedding presents. The examination was closed.

Re PERCIVAL WILLIAM CLEMENT TRICK, Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Chemist and Druggist.—This debtor petitioned the London Bankruptcy Court on February 27, and on March 12 the first meeting of creditors was held there, before Mr. Walter Boyle, Assistant Receiver. A statement of affairs was presented showing unsecured liabilities 3,194*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* and preferential claims 219*l.* 16*s.*, against assets 296*l.* 5*s.*, made up of cash 18*l.* 14*s.*, stock 120*l.*, machinery 30*l.*, fixtures and fittings 120*l.*, and book-debts 7*l.* 11*s.* According to the debtor's statements he started the above business about four years and eight months ago, having previously acted as assistant and manager to various chemists. At the outset he borrowed 1,000*l.* from his mother, who has since lent him further sums amounting to about 1,600*l.* Mrs. Trick is scheduled as an unsecured creditor for 2,669*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* He personally superintended the business, but was unable to make it pay owing to the excessive rent of the premises, and want of business by reason of Salisbury House and London Wall Buildings being largely unlet. A further cause of the failure was stated to be the general financial depression in the City. No offer being submitted on behalf of the debtor, the matter was left in the hands of the Official Receiver to be wound up in bankruptcy, the debtor's public examination being fixed for April 10. The Assistant Receiver observed that the assets would apparently only realise sufficient to cover the disclaimable claim of the landlords, and consequently there would be nothing for the other creditors. The principal creditors include Butler & Crispe, 82 Clerkenwell Road, E.C. (37*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*); W. J. Bush & Co., Ash Grove, Hackney (10*l.* 4*s.*); Davy Hill & Co., Park Street, Southwark (30*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*); Meggeson & Co., Ltd., 14 Miles Lane, E.C. (30*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*); Mrs. W. B. Trick, Stoke Newington (2,669*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*); J. Timpon & Co., Ltd., 104 Golden Lane, E.C. (14*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*); Salisbury House Estate Ltd., Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C. (rent) (292*l.* 18*s.*). Preferential claim: Rent (recoverable by distress), 217*l.* 10*s.*

Re THOMAS ANTHONY, 12 St. Nicholas Street, Truro, Cornwall, Chemist.—According to statement of affairs filed in this matter the gross liabilities amount to 2,039*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, of which 1,981*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* is unsecured, and the net assets 692*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* The receiving order was made on the debtor's petition. It would appear from the report of the Official Receiver that the debtor started trading at Truro in June 1893 with a capital of 400*l.*, which he borrowed from his father at interest. He alleges that he has, out of moneys belonging to his wife, paid his father 250*l.* on account. The debtor has kept a day-book, merchants' and customers' ledgers, and cash book. The latter book, however, does not contain a full account of receipts and payments. Having communicated with several of the trade creditors, the Official Receiver proposes to continue the business, with a view of its being eventually disposed of as a going concern. The debtor estimates his gross takings during the past three years at about 1,100*l.* or 1,200*l.* per annum, out of which he has had to pay his merchants and all expenses connected with his business. The debtor states that his failure has been brought about by insufficient capital, sickness of self (being at times unable to attend to the business), pressure by creditors, and great depression in trade. The following are creditors: Mrs. Anthony (Truro), 600*l.*; T. Anthony (St. Austell), 200*l.*; Ayrton, Saunders & Kemp, Ltd. (Liverpool), 41*l.*; Barelay & Co. (Truro), 460*l.*; Barron, Harveys & Co. (London), 73*l.*; W. Butcher & Son (London), 36*l.*; Cooper, Son & Nephews (Berkhamstead), 12*l.*; Evans, Gadd & Co. (Exeter), 36*l.*; Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd. (London), 40*l.*; Harker, Stagg & Morgan (London), 19*l.* 1*s.*; Maw, Son & Sons (London), 70*l.*; May, Roberts & Co. (London), (27*l.*); Sutton & Co. (London), 53*l.*; Singleton & Cole, Ltd. (Birmingham), 12*l.* 10*s.*; Schultz & Co. (London), 15*l.*; James Townsend (Exeter), 13*l.*; Willows, Francis & Butler, Ltd. (London), 20*l.* Preferential creditors: Rent, 33*l.*; rates, wages, sheriff's charges, etc., 34*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

Bagshaw, W. C., and Bridgford, F., under the style of W. C. Bagshaw & Co., Openshaw, Gorton, Hulme, and Longsight, Manchester, wholesale and retail chemists and druggists.

Boothroyd, W., and Bottomley, J. F., Brighouse, Yorkshire, under the style of J. C. Bottomley, manufacturing chemists, etc.

Swete, H., and Vernon, W., Weston-super-Mare, medical practitioners.

Wright, W. H., and Dinle, E. D., Derby, physicians and surgeons.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Hartmann, Otto, Seething Lane, E.C., and Clevedon Mansions, Lissenden Gardens, Highgate, N., druggists' sundries-man.

Schmitz, Theodore Cassius, Red Lion Square, London, W.C., and Grangehyrst, South Norwood Hill, S.E., formerly sponge-merchant, now of no occupation.

Trick, Percival William Clement, Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., and Ravensdale Mansions, Crouch End, N., chemist and druggist.

ORDERS MADE ON APPLICATIONS FOR DISCHARGE.

Dockrell, Benjamin John Morgan, Lancaster Gate and Cavendish Square, London, W., medical practitioner; discharged conditionally.

Parrott, Hugh McDowall, South Side, Clapham Common, London, S.W., physician and surgeon; discharge granted subject to judgment being entered for the sum of 350*l.*

Trust Deed.

James Cosgrove, 104 English Street, Dumfries, chemist, has granted a trust deed on behalf of his creditors in favour of Mr. James Morton, wholesale grocer, English Street, Dumfries. Messrs. John Henderson & Sons, solicitors, Dumfries, are agents for the trustee.

New Companies and Company News.

EQUATONE PHOTOGRAPHIC SYNDICATE, LTD.—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with H. M. Macfarlane, and to carry on the business of manufacturers and dealers in printing-out paper, photographic dry-plates, chemicals, etc.

J. PARRISH & CO., LTD.—Capital 1,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of ginger-beer, lemonade and mineral-water manufacturers, bottlers, importers, and exporters, merchants, etc. The first directors are J. Wilson and G. A. Ball. Registered office, Elm Road, Walthamstow.

HENDRY'S STANDARD AERATED-WATER WORKS, LTD.—Registered in Edinburgh. Capital 7,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of the "Standard Aerated-water Works" carried on by John Hendry at Abbey Street, Edinburgh, and to carry on the business of chemists, gas-makers, syrup-makers, bottlers, etc.

PRESTO, LTD.—Capital 6,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the recipe and trade-mark for hair-restorer or tonic known as "Presto," and the business appertaining thereto, to adopt an agreement with D. Luxenburg, to manufacture and deal in the said restorative, and to carry on the business of chemists, etc. No initial public issue. So long as C. W. Blacklock holds 500 fully-paid shares he may appoint one director; other directors to be appointed by the subscribers.

S. BREAKS & SON, LTD.—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in picric and other acids, chemicals, explosives, and drysalteries of all kinds, etc., and to adopt an agreement with S. Breaks and A. H. Marks. The first directors are S. Breaks, Green Mount, Wyke, Bradford, retired chemical-manufacturer; and A. H. Marks, 12 Fraser Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, traveller. Registered office, Wyke Chemical-works, Wyke Bottom, Bradford.

CASTLEFORD DRUG CO., LTD.—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of a chemist and druggist and patent-medicine vendor carried on by C. H. Nicholls at 13 Aire Street, Castleford, Yorks, as the "Castleford Drug Co." The first subscribers are: W. B. Brown, Allerton Bywater, schoolmaster; Mrs. M. E. Nicholls, Castleford; W. H. Hawkins, Castleford, watchmaker; C. H. Nicholls, Castleford, watchmaker; J. Hanson, Castleford, accountant; J. E. Mann, Glasshoughton, linendraper; V.

Hulme, Castleford, gentleman. C. H. Nicholls is managing director. Registered office, 13 Aire Street, Castleford.

GEORGE JACKSON & SONS, LTD.—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by G. Jackson at 870 Rochdale Road, Manchester, and Pickston Street, Harpurhey, and to carry on the business of pharmaceutical and analytical chemists, druggists, dispensers, dentists, opticians, etc. The first subscribers are: G. Jackson, 870 Rochdale Road, Manchester, chemist; Mrs. Jane Jackson, Lymm; J. H. Jackson, Blackley, chemist's assistant; A. Jackson, Altrincham, electrical engineer; W. R. Jackson, Manchester, chemist's assistant; Maud Jackson, Lymm; and Mrs. E. Partington, Blackley. No initial public issue. The first directors are G. Jackson, Jane Jackson, J. H. Jackson, and Maud Jackson. Qualification 10*l.*

WHITTAKER & FROST, LTD.—Capital 2,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement between C. Frost and M. Noble for the acquisition of the goodwill, stock-in-trade, and book-debts of the Surgical Supply Association, Ltd. (in liquidation), and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, manufacturers, buyers, and sellers of electrical, chemical, photographic, optical, surgical, medical, and scientific instruments, etc. The first subscribers are R. Whittaker, Darwen, chemist and druggist; M. Noble, Gt. Harwood, mill-manager; I. W. Johnson, Bury, surgeon; S. T. Lord, Castleton, surgeon; S. Crawshaw, Ashton-under-Lyme, surgeon; T. G. Carr, Irlams-o'-th'-Height, Manchester, surgeon; and A. W. Martin, Gorton, surgeon. No initial public issue. The first directors are M. Noble (chairman), S. Crawshaw, S. Lord, I. W. Johnson, R. Whittaker, and C. Frost. Registered office, 85 Bridge Street, Manchester.

HILL, EVANS & CO., LTD.—The directors recommend a further dividend of 6 per cent., making a total distribution of 10 per cent. for the year 1905. The reserve fund is increased by 800*l.*, making it 5,000*l.*, 2,521*l.* being carried forward.

A LIQUID-AIR COMPANY.—A company has been formed at Grussen, Thuringia, for the production, storage, and utilisation of liquid air, and also for the development of the patents of Herr P. Heylandt, physicist, of Erfurt. The title of the company is "The Liquid-air Machine and Apparatus Co." and the share capital is 50,000*l.* Herr Heylandt is the technical director of the company.

SALT UNION, LTD.—The report for the year ended December 31, 1905, to be submitted at the meeting at Liverpool on March 16, states that the net profit has amounted to 68,399*l.*, or, including the balance brought forward from 1904, to 69,169*l.* From this has to be deducted debenture interest for the year, 54,000*l.*, leaving an available balance of 15,169*l.* The directors recommend that there be placed to general reserve 15,000*l.* and 169*l.* carried forward.

INTERNATIONAL SPONGE IMPORTERS, LTD.—The annual meeting of this company was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on March 14, Mr. G. S. Marks (Chairman of the company) presiding. The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts (particulars of which were given in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* of March 3, p. 335), and Mr. E. J. Cresswell seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Mr. F. B. Smart, F.C.A., was reappointed auditor.

TAYLORS' DRUG CO., LTD., in publishing a prospectus in regard to the issue of 30,000*l.*, in 5 per cent. debentures of 50*l.* each, at par, make a statement as to the profits of the business of the company which will be read with much interest by chemists. It appears from this prospectus that the profits for the last five years were as follow: 1901, 9,920*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*; 1902, 6,958*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; 1903, 5,067*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; 1904, 6,190*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*; 1905, 6,427*l.* 16*s.* It is also interesting to note that the present issue is made to replace debentures which became redeemable on January 1 last, and only half of the present issue has been taken up by holders of the old debentures, the remaining 15,000*l.* being now asked for from the public. A separate sheet containing a list of the establishments of the company shows that it requires eighty-three retailing shops to earn the profits above stated.

PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE CO., LTD.—The fifty-ninth annual general meeting of this company was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on March 12, Sir Peter Spokes presiding. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts (see *C. & D.*, March 3, p. 335), the Chairman said the past year's business showed no diminution in volume, and the profit for the year was slightly in excess of that of 1904, being 80,977*l.* against 80,347*l.* He alluded to the loss the company had sustained by the death of the late Chairman, Mr. T. C. Wright, in April last, and said the directors considered themselves fortunate in having secured Mr. Frank L. Wright to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father. The Deputy-Chairman (Mr. Charles T. Harris) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the appropriation of profits recommended by the directors was agreed to.

Legal Reports.

Trade Law.

Enforcing Sale-conditions.—A case (*Bissell v. Bailey*) was heard in the High Court, by Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady, on March 13, which again demonstrated that a manufacturer can enforce sale-conditions, including price-maintenance. The Bissell Carpet Sweeper Co. supplied a company with a cheap kind of carpet-sweeper to compete with a rival manufacturer. This carpet-sweeper was not to be sold as a "Bissell," and the price at which real "Bissell" carpet-sweepers can be sold to the public is fixed at 14*s.* 9*d.*, and they are only sent out on condition that that price is not cut. The defendants violated both conditions, and injunctions in restraint were granted to the plaintiff company.

High Court Cases.

A RECALCITRANT WITNESS.

THE matter of the Geddes Manufacturing Co. came before Mr. Justice Warrington on Tuesday, March 13, on report by the Official Receiver as to the refusal of Wm. Edward Geddes, a witness, to answer a question. Mr. Hansell said Mr. Geddes had carried on the business of dispensing and selling certain patent medicines. He transferred his business to his wife, who sold it to the company, including trade-marks, patents, formulæ, etc. The Official Receiver had entered into a contract to sell these assets, but he could not carry the sale through until Mr. Geddes had given information as to the formulæ, and this he refused to do. He asked his Lordship to order Mr. Geddes, who was present in court, to answer the question at once. It was a very urgent matter, as the sale was in great jeopardy.

Mr. Geddes said he had declined to answer on the advice of his solicitor.

His Lordship: Then your solicitor gave you very bad advice.

Mr. Geddes, who intimated his willingness to obey any order of the Court, was directed to attend before the Registrar that day and give the formulæ, and pay the costs of the application.

A GERANIUM-OIL CONTRACT.

BEFORE Mr. Justice Kennedy, in the King's Bench Division on March 15, the case of W. H. Hobbs & Co., Trinity Square, London, v. J. L. Lyon & Co., Mark Lane, which arose out of a contract for geranium oil, was heard.

Mr. Leck was counsel for plaintiffs and Mr. Hohler appeared for defendants.

Mr. Leck said this was a claim for damages for alleged breach of contract, relative to a quantity of geranium oil purchased by plaintiffs from the defendants, and the question was whether the goods were equal to sample, and, if not, how much damage the plaintiffs had suffered. Plaintiffs' case was that on December 15, 1904, they bought from Lyon & Co. twenty-three cases of about 600 lb. of Bourbon geranium oil, brand Caille and Chatel, the quality to be similar to a sample submitted, and the cost to be 10*s.* 6*d.* per lb., c.i.f. London. The defendants delivered twenty of the cases, but none of the oil was found equal to sample. It was inferior oil, and deficient in ester and not so sweet in odour. The plaintiffs received in December an order from the Vinolia Co. for 600 lb. of the oil "as per sample."

His Lordship: What kind of oil is it?

Mr. Leck: It is an essential oil taken from geraniums.

Mr. Hohler: From pelargoniums, my lord.

Mr. Leck, proceeding, said that on March 13 plaintiffs were asked to deliver 200 lb. to the Vinolia Co., and that quantity was sent. The company shortly afterwards wrote back to say that the oil was not equal to sample, that it was deficient in ester, odour, etc. Plaintiffs were asked to take back the goods, and a correspondence ensued. The case for the plaintiffs was that the goods were not equal to sample, and they said that the difference in value between the oil not being according to sample and the oil as it was in fact delivered was about 4*s.* per lb., and they claimed for 600 lb. at that rate.

Mr. W. H. Hobbs said he traded as W. H. Hobbs & Co., essential-oil importers, and he had had about fourteen years' experience in the sale of geranium oils. In December 1904

he obtained from the defendants samples of oil, and sold 600 lb. to the Vinolia Co. When the oil was delivered, the Vinolia Co. complained of the quality, and on examining the oil he estimated the difference in value to be about 4s. per lb. He sold the oil by sample, but the reason that he did not enter into contract with the Vinolia Co. until December 15 was that he had sold another parcel on behalf of his principals, Messrs. Pilar Frères, but as they were not in a position to deliver more oil he had to go into the market to buy. The contract with the Vinolia Co. specified "oil of the very finest quality and odour, and equal to sample." He knew that oil distilled from the same crop varies; that was why he bought by sample. Witness had since sold 8 or 10 lb. of the oil for soap mixtures.

Mr. W. H. Simmons, analytical chemist to the Vinolia Co., said he remembered analysing the oil in March 1905. He found in it less ester than he had ever seen in a geranium oil. He found the bulk to be very dissimilar to the sample. The Vinolia Co. could not have used the oil unless they had sweetened it up with a more expensive oil.

His Lordship: What oil could this sample have been mixed with?—Palma rosa, an East Indian grass oil. It is called geranium, but it is really distilled from grass.

Mr. F. C. Mommickendam, buyer to the Vinolia Co. from 1902 to 1905, said he examined the sample and bulk in this case and considered the latter to be deficient in esters. An oil that contained only 24.9 esters would not be accepted by the Vinolia Co. He was aware there had been a fluctuating market.

Mr. C. T. Bennett, F.C.S., said he analysed two samples of the oil sent to him in December last year. That taken from the bulk was very deficient in esters and was not equal to the original sample. The difference between his analysis and that of Mr. Simmons—32.7 esters against 29.1—was only slight, and may have been due to a difference in the method or age of the oil.

Mr. F. R. Cullingford, manufacturing perfumer, late with Messrs. S. F. Goss & Co. and the Crown Perfumery Co., said he had compared the two samples and there was a difference in value. One was sweeter and more delicate than the other. The difference in value was from 3s. to 4s. per lb.

Mr. Sidney Francis Goss, of Morney Frères, Ltd., said he had had a large experience in the purchase of geranium oils. There is, he estimated, a difference in value of from 3s. to 5s. per lb.

Mr. Hohler, for the defendants, said it was impossible to guarantee the quality of geranium oil in bulk unless it was all mixed together. It is the custom to sell by sample, and the whole matter which had led to this dispute was the form of contract with the Vinolia Co., which contained the words "equal to sample or similar." He did not think the defendants had been fairly dealt with in this matter, and he pointed out that the purchaser was informed that the bulk was not in London at the time of the sale. He must therefore have anticipated these differences.

Mr. Nathaniel Mayer, manager to the defendants, said he had had experience in these oils in the market since 1894. He took the contract with the plaintiffs and sold "similar to sample," the goods to arrive at the end of January. He had had a large experience in these Bourbon geranium oils. The variation in ester-content depends upon the climate and the field where the plant is grown, and also the position of the plant. This oil was unadulterated, and in his view fulfilled the contract. The oil was delivered from the ship to the wharf, and from the wharf to Messrs. Hobbs & Co., and never opened.

Mr. Richard C. Treatt, merchant and importer of essential oils, said he had sold oils to every soap-maker and perfumer of any standing in Europe, and particularly in Great Britain. He knew the brand of oil in question, and the sample he saw was exceedingly good. It was one of the best kinds. Its market value in March last was 9s. 6d. per lb., less 2½ per cent.

Mr. E. J. Parry, analytical chemist, said geraniol was the most important element in geranium oil, and the value of the oil depended upon the total of geraniol, and not the esters. The latter included a portion of combined geraniol. The variation in esters would not necessarily make any difference

in the smell. He had analysed a sample of the bulk sold to the plaintiffs and considered it a genuine sample of Bourbon geranium oils. He had never heard of a sale of that oil on the basis of its ester-content.

Mr. Herbert E. Burgess, analytical chemist, said that a low ester-content in a geranium oil did not depreciate the value of the oil if it was unadulterated and came from the proper country.

The case was adjourned until Friday.

County Court Cases.

THE PETERHEAD CASE.

WE briefly reported last week the hearing by Sheriff Robertson of counsel on each side of the case *Gall v. Slessor*. The speeches of the learned gentlemen who appeared for the plaintiff chemist and the defendant doctor would occupy several pages of our space were we to report the arguments adequately. We therefore await his lordship's decision in the matter.

THE ARBROATH CASE.—APPEAL.

THE appeal in *Milne v. Burn* (the action by a Congregational minister against an Arbroath chemist for damages in respect to injury to a child caused by alleged wrongous dispensing of a prescription) came before Sheriff Ferguson, at the Arbroath Sheriff Court, on March 12. It was an appeal by pursuer against the judgment of Sheriff-Substitute Lee, who awarded 3*l.* damages to pursuer, a sum which had already been paid by defender.

The Sheriff-Principal adhered to the interlocutor of his Substitute, and found the defender entitled to the expenses of the appeal. He recited the facts of the case, saying that it was admitted that a serious mistake had been made by the substitution of strychnine for codeine in the medicine, but no materials existed for ascertaining or appreciating to what extent the child's condition was to be attributable to the after-effects of the poison or to the independent bronchitis. The general claim of damage was of the vaguest kind, and was unsupported by any detailed evidence.

BRAND'S ESSENCE FROM WAR-STORES.

IN the City of London Court on Friday, March 9, before Judge Rentoul, K.C., an action was brought by Messrs. Cowley & Co., Monument Buildings, against C. Kibble & Co., Ltd., 53 Broadway, Deptford, to recover 3*l.*, the price of six dozen tins of Brand's essence of meat sold to them in March 1905. From the evidence it appeared that the plaintiffs had purchased the essence at public auction, it being part of a consignment which had gone out to South Africa as war-stores and had been returned. Defendant had bought from plaintiffs at 10s. per dozen, on the understanding that the essence was in good condition, but instead of being a translucent jelly it was milky white and unfit for sale. At the suggestion of plaintiffs' traveller, said defendants' principal, he communicated with the makers, who gave 2½ doz. of good essence in exchange for 5½ doz. of the bad. Mr. Kibble also informed the Court that he knew Messrs. Brand had taken back some of the essence at 8s. 6d. per doz. Judge Rentoul, after hearing all the evidence, thought that the plaintiffs had given the defendants permission to go to Messrs. Brand & Co., and that might be considered an authority to sell, but not an authority to take any price they chose to offer; but it could not be assumed that Messrs. Brand & Co. gave the defendants anything but what was fair. He gave judgment for the plaintiffs for 2*l.*

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS," published by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, "is a veritable treasure," says a pharmacist in Ireland (210/38).

LIMA HEALTH EXHIBITION.—A project is on foot for the establishment at Lima of a permanent Health Exhibition, with a view to instructing the Peruvian public in the latest methods of hygiene, sanitation, etc. The Lima Institute of Hygiene would be glad to receive samples or printed descriptions of such articles as patent foods, meat extract, surgical appliances, disinfectants, hygienic clothing, electro-therapeutic devices, hospital equipment, etc. An Italian bacteriologist, Dr. Ugo Biffi, is the Director of the Institute, which is under the City Government. The Institute is prepared, within certain limits, to defray the cost of carriage of samples forwarded.

Westminster Wisdom.

(From our Parliamentary Representative.)

PHARMACY BILL.

Mr. Joseph Nolan, the Nationalist member for the Southern division of Louth, has supplied the fourth blocking motion to this Bill. He is the second Nationalist to do so, Mr. T. P. O'Connor being the first. This Irish interference with the Bill is peculiar. At the beginning of the Session the party was notified that English Bills should not be backed by Nationalist members, and Mr. O'Malley's name as a backer of the Pharmacy Bill was not easy to get. It is there, however, the other backers being Mr. Winfrey, Mr. Idris, Sir Henry Kimber, Mr. Henniker Heaton, Mr. James Gibb, Mr. Remnant, Mr. Ellis Griffith, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Cowan, and Mr. Gullend. The opposition by Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Nolan may be an antidote to Mr. O'Malley's support.

Mr. Winfrey was distinctly in luck on Wednesday evening, for the Bill came up for second reading three or four minutes before midnight; it was, however, talked out by Mr. Claude Hay, who urged that the measure ought to have adequate discussion. Mr. Winfrey moved the second reading and Mr. A. H. Scott rose as if to speak, but was forestalled by Mr. Claude Hay. The member for Hoxton said that there is a very keen feeling among chemists in the various districts of London with regard to the subject touched by the Bill. He understood it would practically have the effect of creating a monopoly. The hon member, who was very indistinctly heard, was proceeding to refer to the relative position of the private chemist and the large companies when at twelve o'clock the discussion was automatically suspended. Mr. Winfrey has put down the Bill for further consideration on Tuesday, March 20—the same day that the Government's Poisons Bill is to be read a second time in the House of Lords.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL.

This Bill to amend the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts (Great Britain and Ireland) was introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord President of the Council (the Earl of Creve) on Thursday evening, March 8, and was read a first time. The second reading has been fixed for Tuesday, March 20.

Approached as to their views on the Bill, Mr. R. Winfrey and Mr. T. M. W. Idris indicated to our representative the points in the Ministerial measure to which they take exception. Mr. Idris pointed out that the Bill would legalise the assumption of the title of "chemist" by every company which employs one qualified chemist, and to this he and the other supporters of Mr. Winfrey's Bill are naturally opposed. It is clearly illogical, Mr. Idris urged, to make it compulsory for a man to pass an examination in order that he might call himself a chemist, and then to allow other people, as the Bill proposed, who have not passed that examination to employ the same designation. It is absurd and illogical to extend to a body of persons or an unlimited partnership a privilege denied to individuals. It is, in fact, illegal to call any man a chemist who has not obtained that title by the proper method laid down by the Pharmacy Act of 1868. Mr. Idris also pointed out that the Government's Bill does not restrict the compounding of prescriptions to qualified men. The poisonous properties of articles in a chemist's shop vary in degree, and there are very many much more powerful synthetic articles lately introduced which are not included in the poison schedule, the proper dispensing of which requires skill, as otherwise some of them are liable to decompose. The Bill likewise proposes to license ironmongers, but Mr. Idris contended that this is not necessary, for where there is an ironmonger's shop there is almost certain to be a chemist's also. If, however, no chemist's shop is available an ironmonger's might be open to receive a licence. Mr. Idris considers that it is unsafe to permit the sale of arsenic by a shopkeeper without the restraint, knowledge, and discretion of a trained man, since this would make easier the malicious poisoning of animals and the criminal poisoning of human beings. If this facility were advertised, as it would be by the very fact of the shop being licensed, and the public learned that poisons could be obtained at an ironmonger's for certain purposes. Mr. Idris considers that it might be taken advantage of by

the would-be suicide, or worse. There are, he said, some good points in the Bill, which he thinks is to some extent proceeding upon the right lines. The chances of passing Mr. Winfrey's Bill are rather remote, and the passage of the Government's measure would place them in no worse position, except, perhaps, in regard to the title of "chemist." The suggestion is thrown out that the Government may conceivably be prevailed upon to amend their Bill in directions which would harmonise it with that introduced by Mr. Winfrey, and if assurances to this effect are received, the attention of the promoters of the latter Bill might be diverted to securing the passage of the Ministerial measure.

IRISH MEDICINE-CONTRACTS.

The Secretary for Ireland was asked by Mr. Charles Devlin on Tuesday about the Galway Guardians' medicine-contract and the difficulties thrown in their way by the Local Government Board, who put obstacles in the way of Guardians encouraging Irish manufactures. To this Mr. Bryce replied that the Board had recently issued a circular to the effect that restriction of contracts to Irish houses is detrimental to the ratepayers, and that no unnecessary charge should be placed upon the public funds, from which one-half of the expenditure on medicines is defrayed. He added that "the quantity of medicinal drugs actually manufactured in Ireland appears to be small, and that a restriction of contracts to Irish firms would not necessarily tend to encourage the industry. Out of nine Irish firms which hold medicine-contracts only two are manufacturing druggists; and even these obtain many of their drugs from England."

Mr. Kennedy, another Irish member, also put a question to Mr. Bryce as to the non-acceptance of lowest tenders and the date for receiving tenders. Mr. Bryce replied that the Local Government Board fixed March 10 as the latest day for receiving tenders because if a uniform date were not fixed some firms might withhold their tenders until they had ascertained the terms upon which rival firms tender in other Unions, and this obviously would not be in the interests of the ratepayers. The principle embodied in the Board's regulations requiring Guardians to state the reasons for non-acceptance of the lowest tender when they take such a course is the same as that which received the sanction of Parliament in Section 18 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902.

Replying to a further question on the Irish drug-contract, addressed to him by Mr. Field, Mr. Bryce stated that by Article 10 of the Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland, dated December 20, 1905, it was provided as follows: "Recompment from the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account will not be allowed in any case where the Guardians accept a tender other than the lowest tender received by them for the supply of drugs or other articles contained in the prescribed list unless the Local Government Board, on application being made to them by the Guardians for that purpose, approve of the acceptance of such tender."

SHOP-HOURS.

In the House of Lords on Friday, March 9, Lord Avebury moved that in the opinion of the House the subject of the Sunday opening of shops demands the serious and early attention of his Majesty's Government. In the course of his speech he said that Sunday shopping is now illegal, but his object was to make the law effective and just. The Archbishop of Canterbury said the matter is one as to which both parties are agreed that it deserves the most careful consideration, and, if possible, action. Lord Tweedmouth, speaking on behalf of the Government, said the Home Office holds that the whole question is one which deserves the earnest attention of the Government; and he proposed that the motion should be accepted, on the understanding that the subject should be referred to a Joint Committee of the two Houses. This was agreed to unanimously.

INCOME-TAX AND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Replying on Thursday to a question by Sir Edward Sassoon as to why co-operative societies were exempted from income-tax and whether he contemplated legislation on the subject, Mr. Asquith stated that Lord Ritchie's Departmental Committee on Income-tax had advised that no case was made out for alteration of the income-tax in this regard.

CHARACTER BILL.

Mr. Bell, Liberal member for Derby, introduced on March 8 a Bill to make it compulsory upon employers to supply a reference note of his or her general conduct to a person leaving their employment and desiring one.

QUACK MEDICINES.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone made an interesting statement in reply to the question by Mr. Myer, the terms of which were given in this column last week. Mr. Myer, it will be remembered, asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been directed to the frauds perpetrated upon the public by the advertising and sale of quack medicines, and the consequent loss of money sustained by the public and frequent postponement of proper remedial measures being taken by the sufferers in specific diseases; and whether the Government would take any, and, if any, what, steps either by the institution of prosecutions for fraud or obtaining money by false pretences, or by direct prohibitive legislation, to deal with this matter. Mr. Herbert Gladstone, in his reply, said: "I do not doubt that the advertisement or sale of quack medicines is often the cause of serious mischief; but it is an evil which must be met rather by the spread of education than by legislation or prosecution. The difficulties of proving fraud in such cases are, I fear, almost insuperable. If the hon. member will refer to the proceedings in the Harness Belts case in 1894, he will understand some of the difficulties I refer to."

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Mr. Henry Norman was unable to obtain from the Prime Minister any promise of introducing a Bill making the metric system of weights and measures compulsory after a lapse of two years. The Premier pointed out that such an Act, on becoming operative, would necessarily render the use of all existing weights and measures illegal, and he did not think that such a measure would prove non-contentious.

INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.

Mr. William Pearce has given notice of his intention to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the increased employment of alcohol in chemical industry, he will take steps during the present Session to free British manufacturers using alcohol from the disadvantage they now suffer compared with their foreign competitors. Mr. Asquith will supply a printed reply to the question on Friday.

LOCAL VETO (IRELAND) BILL.

In the Local Veto Bill introduced by Mr. W. H. K. Redmond, M.P., there is a section which is of interest to Irish pharmacists. It is Section 8, and it contains the following:

Provided that nothing herein contained shall be held to affect any sale made under any Statute permitting the sale of methylated spirits for use in the arts and manufactures, or the sale of intoxicating liquors for medicinal use. Provided also that it shall not be lawful for any person in the said ward or district for which such resolution has been adopted to sell any intoxicating liquors for medicinal use except on the prescription of a legally qualified medical practitioner, and unless he is a pharmaceutical chemist or a chemist and druggist, registered under the Pharmacy (Ireland) Act, 1875, or any Act amending the same; and it shall not be lawful to sell any intoxicating liquors for medicinal use unless the bottle or other vessel in which such intoxicating liquor is contained be distinctly labelled with the words "Intoxicating liquors" and the name and address of the seller; and any person selling intoxicating liquor for medicinal use otherwise than is herein provided shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 5*l.*, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding one month, for the first offence; and to a penalty not exceeding 10*l.*, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding two months, for the second or any subsequent offence; and for the purposes of this Act the person on whose behalf any sale is made by any apprentice or servant shall be deemed to be the seller.

OPIUM IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Mr. Churchill has informed Mr. Smeaton that under Section 8 of the Ordinance of 1905, amending the Chinese Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904, the possession by and supply to Chinese labourers in the Transvaal of opium is penalised. The Ordinance came into operation on September 19, and opium is therefore not now legally imported for their consumption.

Business Changes.

MISS KATE N. HORNIELOW, chemist and druggist, Oxford, has purchased the business of Mr. Richard Mercer, chemist and druggist, in Clonmel Street, Llandudno.

MESSRS. PADGETT & COLES, South African merchants, have removed to Bassishaw House, Basinghall Street, E.C., where they will trade under the style of "Padgett & Co."

MR. THOMAS WILLIAM DEAN, chemist and druggist, 18 Queen Street, Great Harwood, near Blackburn, has disposed of his business to Mr. George Mercer, of the same place.

MR. R. E. O. BEACHER, chemist and druggist, has acquired the old-established business at Kirkgate Head, Ripon, formerly carried on as "Parkin & Son" by Mr. F. B. Parkin, chemist and druggist.

MR. A. B. WITHERS, late of Canterbury, has purchased the "Cash Drug-stores" of Mr. William Paine, Sudbury, Suffolk, who is retiring from business. Mr. Paine was formerly in business at Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

MESSRS. DENTON BROS., Northgate, Hartlepool, have taken over the premises recently occupied by Mr. H. Buckle, chemist and druggist, Henrietta Street, Hartlepool, which they are to carry on as a branch of their Northgate establishment.

MR. WILLIAM BOOTHROYD, having retired from the firm of "J. C. Bottomley," manufacturing chemists, drysalts, and dealers in chemicals, of Brighouse, the business will be continued alone by Mr. John Floyd Bottomley, under the same style.

MR. G. A. MARSHALL (of Messrs. Marshall & French, produce-brokers, 37 Mincing Lane, E.C.) has issued a circular stating that by a judgment of the High Court of Justice, dated March 3, in an action brought by him against Mr. H. C. Cooke, in which he claimed dissolution of his partnership with that gentleman in the business of Colonial brokers, carried on under the style of "Marshall & French" at the above address, the Judge has ordered such dissolution, to take effect from March 7. Mr. G. A. Marshall will continue to carry on the business at the said address under the same style.

Trade Notes.

THE CROWN PERFUMERY Co. have issued an illustrated price-list printed in the Russian language.

THE FRAME FOOD Co., LTD., Southfields, S.W., wish to get into touch with those who stock their jelly, so that they may refer customers to them.

AMATO is the name of a new self-developing plate which Ilford, Ltd., are advertising in this issue. The company suggest that photographic chemists will find the sale of the new plate both profitable and easy.

GELATIN CAPSULES.—In the note under this heading on p. 372 of our last issue the name of the manufacturers was incorrectly printed. The note referred to the products of Messrs. R. Ferber & Co., 195 Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E.

"CLAIRET VIERGE."—Messrs. Ingram & Royle, Ltd., 26 Upper Thames Street, E.C., have been appointed sole agents for a genuine light claret bearing this name, which has a good bouquet and will suit the majority of claret drinkers. Its taste indicates that excess of alcohol and of tannin has been eliminated, and that it will be supported by the most delicate stomach. It has the further merit of reasonableness in price, 18*s.* per doz. bottles, and 10*s.* 6*d.* per doz. half-bottles, being the retail quotations.

GLYCEROLE TRYPSIN.—Messrs. Armour & Co., Ltd., 46A Holborn Viaduct, E.C., have placed this preparation on the market in 1-oz. and 4-oz. bottles. The preparation is a permanent 10-per-cent. solution of the pancreatic ferment, and may be used (diluted with normal saline solution or sterilised water) for hypodermic injection in cancer, or as a surgical solvent. There is now a brisk demand for such preparations, consequent on Dr. Shaw-Mackenzie's observations, and Messrs. Armour & Co. manufacture their pancreatic and trypsin products in their Chicago laboratories from fresh materials.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., March 15.

LITTLE of interest has transpired in drugs and chemicals this week, and trading for most part is only light. There have been a fair number of alterations in prices, but none of great moment. In chemicals oxalic acid is still very scarce, makers being out of the market, and in second-hands a further fractional advance is asked. *Regulus antimony* is dearer. Citric acid tends firmer, but there is little doing. Tartaric acid and cream of tartar are unaltered. Quinine is devoid of interest. Among drugs and oils, cardamoms, grey Jamaica sarsaparilla, and chamomiles are dearer. Cod-liver oil is hardening. Menthol, soy, and W. I. tamarinds are firmer. Ergot, buchu, E. I. and Morocco coriander, and ipecac. tend easier. Canary-seed, gamboge, and strophanthus are lower. The following table shows the principal alterations of the week:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Antimony	Citric acid	Buchu	Calumba
Cardamoms	Cod-liver oil	Coriander	Canary-seed
and seed	Cumin-seed	(E.I. and	Gamboge
Chamomiles	Gentian	Mor.)	Strophanthus
Lemon oil	Kola	Dragon's-	
Sarsaparilla	Menthol	blood	
(grey)	Oxalic acid	Ergot	
	Soy	Ipecacuanha	
	Tamarinds	Nutmegs	
	(W.I.)		

Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, March 15:—Refined camphor is firmer at 880m. per 100 kilos. Ipecacuanha and Carnauba wax are firmer.

SMYRNA, March 15:—The sales of opium for the week ending Wednesday amount to 40 cases at from 7s. to 7s. 10d. per lb., showing a firm market. Higher prices are expected for rich qualities.

NEW YORK, March 15:—Business in drugs is fair. Druggists' opium in single cases is easier at \$2.82, a drop of 3c. on last week's price. Potassium bromide is active at 15c. per lb. for American. Peppermint oil, in tins, is still firmly held at \$2.60 per lb., and menthol is again firmer at \$2.40 per lb. Refined camphor has again been advanced, and \$1.00 per lb. is now the price. Gamboge is scarce at \$1.05 per lb. for Siam pipe. Rio ipecacuanha is firmer and has advanced 10c. on last week's quotations to \$1.75 per lb. Ceylon citronella oil is easier, 38c. per lb. now being asked.

Heavy Chemicals.

The general demand in the heavy-chemical market at all the principal centres for both main and miscellaneous products is well maintained, and present indications point towards a steady continuance of such condition. Deliveries against existing contracts are being well taken out, and a specially pleasing feature at the moment is the greater number and heavier inquiries for new business which are being put into the market. Values show very little fluctuation, but all round they are generally on the firm side.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—Demand in this branch is steady, and bleaching-powder, caustic soda, and ammonia-alkali all maintain a firm tone both on prompt and forward account. Salt-cake inquiries are rather quieter, but tone continues steady. Soda crystals, chlorates, and prussiates continue in fair inquiry.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA is steadier on forward account, although at present values are nominally unchanged from

recent figures. Some good shipments have recently been made.

BENZOLS keep quiet at 9½d. per gal. for 90-per-cent. and 10½d. for 50-per-cent.

GREEN COPPERAS is without alteration in value, but demand is hardly so good as it was. Best Lancashire makes 37s. 6d. to 40s. per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool and Welsh 11s. to 12s. per ton in bulk, free on rails.

ZINC SALTS, with very steady request, are on the firm side as regards values. Zinc sulphate crystals, 7l. to 7l. 5s. per ton; zinc chloride, 100° Tw. solution, 7l. to 7l. 5s.

RECOVERED SULPHUR, in consequence of none too abundant supply, combined with steady inquiry, maintains a steady tone at 5l. 10s. to 5l. 15s. per ton.

Liverpool Drug-market.

Liverpool, March 14.

BEEWAX. The sales include 29 bags at 7l. 10s. and ten packages at 6l. 17s. 6d. and 7l. 2s. 6d. per cwt.

LINSEED OIL, in sympathy with seed, is steady but quiet at 19s. 6d. per cwt., naked.

CARNAUBA WAX.—The sales include six bags yellow at 22s. 6d. per cwt.

ARSENIC continues very scarce and firmly held at 27l. to 28l. per ton.

QUILLAYA BARK continues in good demand, sellers still quoting 17l. 10s. to 17l. 15s. per ton.

SPERMACETL.—In spite of further arrivals quotation remains unchanged.

CASTOR OIL.—Good seconds Calcutta has met with a steady sale at slightly easier quotations, holders now quoting 3½d. per lb. in store, and for shipment 2½d. to 3½d. First pressure French is in small compass on the spot, and firmly held for 3½d., and for shipment 27l. to 28l. per ton, f.o.b. Marseilles, is quoted.

ANISEED.—Russian is held for higher prices for shipment, and the small stocks on the spot are firmly held at 26l. 10s. to 27l. per ton.

GINGER.—An arrival of new crop (African) sold from the quay at 24s. 6d. to 25s. per cwt.

German Drug-market.

Hamburg, March 13.

Our drug-market is steady and shows a fair amount of business.

AGAR-AGAR is firm at 295m. per 100 kilos.

BORAX is firmer, the factories having raised their price by 4 marks per 100 kilos.

CITRIC ACID is firm at 275m. per 100 kilos.

CAMPHOR.—Refined is very firm at 850m. per 100 kilos. for bells. (See cable.)

CANTHARIDES is quiet at 9½m. per kilo.

COLOCYNTH is dull at 225m. per 100 kilos.

CORIANDEUR-SEED is lower at 70m. to 65m. per 100 kilos.

CUMIN is firm at 66m. per 100 kilos. for Malta, and 60m. for Mogador.

ELEMI is scarce at 100m. per 100 kilos.

LYCOPodium is steady at 40m. per 100 kilos.

MENTHOL is firm but quiet at 17½m. per kilo.

IPECACUANHA is getting scarce; Cartagena is quoted 15½m. and Rio 16m. per kilo.

SENEGA is quiet at 560m. per 100 kilos.

WAX.—Japanese is quoted 106m. to 107m. per 100 kilos.

WORMSEED is firm, with a fair demand at 137½m. per 100 kilos.

OILS (FIXED).—Castor oil is unchanged at 53½m. per 100 kilos. for first pressing in barrels. Cod-liver is quiet at 61m. per barrel for non-congealing oil. Chinese woodoil in barrels on the spot is quoted 66m. and forward 61m. per 100 kilos. Rape is dull at 50½m. per 100 kilos., duty free, in barrels.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—Peppermint is improving, H.G.H. being quoted 14½m. per lb., Japanese is 10m. per kilo. Star-anise is 12½m., and Cassia oil is firm at 7½m. per kilo.

ACID, CITRIC.—Firm, but in little demand. English is quoted 1s. 5d. and foreign 1s. 4d. per lb.

ACID, OXALIC. has advanced a further ¼d. per lb., to 3d. net for small quantities from second-hands on the spot.

ACID, TARTARIC.—Very quiet at 11½d. to 11¾d. for English on the spot and 10¾d. for foreign.

ANISE continues scarce and dear. Some small Spanish has been sold at 28s. per cwt.

ANTIMONY.—A large business has been done in Japanese crude, spot of which is quoted 50l., while for distant shipment, July to September, 37l. 10s., c.i.f., has been quoted; Ore is unchanged at 20l. to 22l., and English *regulus* is dearer on the spot at 71l. to 73l. per ton.

ARGOL.—The exports from Cape Colony during the six months ended December 31, 1905, amounted to 87,876 lb. (1,517l.).

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—There is still an absence of good alkaloidal quality, but common is plentiful; for shipment from 36s. to 40s. per cwt., c.i.f., is quoted as to quality. At the drug-auction 12 bags sold at 38s. per cwt., subject, for pale and rather starchy.

BROMIDES.—There is no change in the position, the English makers being still reluctant to sell, and prices are nominal. No agreement has been arrived at between the rival producers in Germany, and matters there are *in statu quo*. Meanwhile a fair quantity of American bromides has been sold for delivery in about six weeks on the basis of 9d. per lb. net, c.i.f., for potassium, and on the spot there are sellers at 9d. per lb. net. Endeavours are being made in the U.S.A., as well as in Germany, to effect an understanding, but so far without result.

CALABAR-BEANS.—In Liverpool a sale of 45 bags has been made at 2½d. per lb.

CAMPHOR remains a strong market for all descriptions. Japanese 1-oz. tablets have been sold at 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10½d. on the spot, and a few ½-oz. are held at 4s. For shipment, a good business has been done amounting to about 400 cases at 3s. 7d. for March, 3s. 6½d. for July-September, and 3s. 5½d., c.i.f., for August-October shipment. English bells are firm at 4s., but if present conditions regarding the supply of crude continue, 4s. 6d. is looked upon as a probable figure.

CANARY-SEED is lower, owing to arrivals of new crop Plate. The price has fallen to 50s. per quarter on the spot for Turkish and screened Plate. Fine qualities, being scarce, maintain their values.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Recent sales have been ex a parcel lying in Liverpool, at 27s. per cwt. for new bark.

CHAMOMILES are still advancing; on the spot 100s. per cwt. has been paid for good Belgian flowers. In auction 4 bales of fair small white were limited at 95s. per cwt.

CINCHONA.—The 9,363 bales and 502 cases of Java bark to be offered at Amsterdam on March 22 weigh 890,991 kilos., and contain 49,210 kilos. of quinine sulphate, the average quinine percentage of the manufacturing bark being 5.99 per cent.; 29 packages of Java coca-leaves, weighing 1,347 kilos., will also be offered. In auction 26 serons Huanuco sold at from 6½d. to 7d. per lb. for sound, and 6d. for damaged, while 40 serons Loxa sold at from 7d. to 8½d. for small chips to good bright quill; 64 bales of flat cultivated Calisaya also partly sold at 8d. per lb.

CORIANDER-SEED is slow of sale, but prices are steady, except for Morocco and East Indian on the spot, which is offering at cheaper rates without business reported. Madras is quoted 21s. 6d. to 23s. per cwt. At auction 40 bags fair Russian sold without reserve at 27s., and another lot of 38 bags Russian was bought in at 30s.

CREAM OF TARTAR continues slow of sale at the previous prices of 77s. 6d. for 98-per-cent. powder and 75s. for 95-per-cent.

CUMIN is tending dearer, owing to failure of crop in Morocco. Malta is held for 32s. 6d., and Morocco for 30s. per cwt. on the spot.

FENUGREEK sells slowly at 10s. 6d. per cwt. for Morocco, and at 9s. 6d. for East Indian.

GALLS—Chinese are lower, sales having been made at from 52s. 6d. to 53s. per cwt., c.i.f.

GENTIAN is firmer for shipment at 16s., f.o.b. Marseilles.

GRAINS OF PARADISE are quoted 43s. per cwt. on the spot.

LINSEED is steady at 48s. to 49s. per quarter for good Dutch.

LYCOPodium.—On the spot holders quote from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per lb. as to quantity, and for shipment 1s. 11d., c.i.f.

MENTHOL.—The lot offered in auction was withdrawn. Privately Kobayashi has changed hands on the spot at from 7s. 8d. to 7s. 9d. per lb., but to-day 8s. spot or c.i.f. is asked.

OIL, CITRONELLA.—Ceylon is quiet at from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d. per lb. spot.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Dearer. The Norwegian mail which came to hand last Friday morning indicates that stormy weather had considerably interfered with the fishing, and

that high prices are being paid for the liver. It would also appear that sellers and refiners who disposed of quantities at the beginning of the season for forward shipment at higher prices are trying to cover such sales, and higher prices have been paid by them than are quoted by agents in London. In London a good business has been done in several quarters this week at from 60s. to 62s. per barrel, c.i.f., for finest new Lofoten oil, and it is said orders below 60s. have been refused. One agent quotes 64s., c.i.f. Newcastle or Hull, and 65s. c.i.f. Thames, for present shipment, which price might be shaded for forward; and his cable states, "Market poorly supplied; prices continue rising everywhere."

Our Bergen correspondent writes on March 5 (which letter came to hand on Friday, March 9) that the previous week's fishing was partly hindered by bad weather, which accounts for the fact that the catch did not exceed 3,400,000 cod. We mentioned in our last letter that there was news to the effect that in the east of Lofoten also the boats were coming in with good catches. This news has not, however, been confirmed. On the contrary, all private as well as official advices are complaining that the catch is still limited to the west of Lofoten; and this is a very serious hindrance, as this is the time that the fish usually move eastward, where there is space for a larger number of fishing-people. However, we still have a lingering hope that the fish will go to East Lofoten. The number of cod taken up to date is 13,400,000, with a yield of 12,155 barrels of cod-liver oil and 3,880 barrels set aside for other kinds of oil, as against 3,400,000, with 2,520 barrels of cod-liver oil in 1905, and 7,300,000, with 2,690 barrels of cod-liver oil, in 1904. The cod is now losing heavily in weight. At the opening there was a weight of 260 to 300 kilos. per 100 cod; at present the weight is 246 to 256, the number of livers required to fill one hectolitre at the opening being 260 to 360, but at present it is from 390 to 500. The market is unaltered and rather quiet, but producers are holding back for higher prices, which the refiners refuse to give. The price for finest non-freezing oil is now about 59s., f.o.b. Bergen. The exports from Bergen up to this date are 2,000 barrels, against 528 barrels at the same time last year.

Writing again on March 12, our Bergen correspondent reports that throughout the week heavy gales and snowstorms have raged over the whole of Lofoten and other fishing-places, and have made it impossible for the fishermen to go to sea. Fine prospects were reported from the west of Lofoten, but because of the bad weather the week's catch only amounts to 1,200,000 cod. The total quantity of cod taken up to date is 14,600,000, with a yield of 13,343 barrels of cod-liver oil, and 4,202 barrels set aside for other kinds of oil, as against in 1905 6,600,000 cod with 5,022 barrels of cod-liver oil, and in 1904 10,800,000 cod with 3,900 barrels of cod-liver oil. The number of livers required to fill one hectolitre is now 400 to 560, as against 390 to 500 last week, and at the opening 260 to 360, but the percentage of oil in the liver keeps good—about 50 per cent. The Bergen market is decidedly firmer, because producers are keeping back their goods, and refiners who have orders for prompt shipment have been obliged to raise their prices some shillings, but the Bergen quotation for finest non-freezing cod-liver oil is still about 59s., f.o.b., for prompt shipment. The export of cod-liver oil from Bergen up to date is 2,422 barrels, as against 647 barrels at the same date last year.

The Trondhjem "Dagposten" of March 8 announces that on the previous evening a snow avalanche in the Lofoten Islands buried several fishermen's huts. Sixty-one people are known to have been inside the huts. The work of rescue was at once begun, and eventually twenty-one dead bodies were extricated and thirty-nine seriously injured persons.

OIL, LEMON.—Dearer. From Messina 2s. 10½d. per lb., c.i.f., is quoted, and for spot from 2s. 8d. to 3s. is asked, the latter figure representing a tip-top brand. These prices mark an advance of about 4d. per lb.

OILS, FIXED.—Petroleum oil is steady at 6d. to 6½d. per gal. for ordinary refined American and 7½d. to 7¾d. for water-white. Roumanian, 5½d. and Russian 5½d. to 5¾d. per gal., spot. Petroleum spirit is quoted 7d. to 8d. for ordinary and 9d. to 1s. per gal. for deodorised. Lubricating oils are offered at from 9l. 10s. to 10l. 10s. for pale American on the spot, 5l. 10s. to 8l. for black; white pale Russian ranges from 10l. to 12l. 10s., and black at from 4l. to 7l. 10s. Turpentine closes at 47s. per cwt. for American on the spot. Lagos Palm oil is quoted 31s. 6d. per cwt., and Cochin Coconut is 34s., while Ceylon is 28s. 6d. Refined Rape is a trifle easier at 24s. 6d., and ordinary brown is 23s. 6d. Linseed is quoted 20s. 3d. in pipes and 20s. 6d. in barrels.

OPUM is quiet, the sales including a few cases of soft shipping at up to 13s. per lb., and druggists' at from 8s. 3d.

to 8s. 6d. per lb. Persian is quoted 19s. Prices in the primary market appear firmer.

SMYRNA, March 2.—The sales this week amount to 23 cases, as follows: Six cases current talequale for England and seven-teen selected t.q. for the Continent. The weather is favourable for the spring sowings, but sellers are reserved, and a much firmer feeling prevails all round, especially for rich 11 to 1½ per cent. manufacturing qualities. As for the 12 per cent. qualities, very little is offering, and nothing can be had under 7s. 10d. to 8s. per lb. The arrivals in Smyrna to date amount to 1,455 cases, against 4,334 at the same period last year.

QUICKSILVER is unchanged at 7l. 7s. 6d., and in second-hands this price can be shaded 6d. to 1s., according to idea of holder.

QUININE is steady, but there is no business doing; the nominal price in second-hands for German sulphate in bulk is 8½d.

SHELLAC.—Quiet. Small spot sales have been made on a basis of 191s. to 192s. for fair TN orange, the range of quotations being from 182s. 6d. to 195s. for ordinary more or less matted to fine free TN. Good and fine Orange marks are quoted at 210s. to 215s., spot.

SOY is again firmer, over 200 barrels having changed hands, the bulk consisting of the cheaper qualities at about 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. per gal. for good thick. Holders now ask 1s. 4d.

SPICES.—At auction 115 barrels Jamaica *Ginger* were bought in; washed rough Cochin was also bought in at 30s., and good brown Calicut rough at 33s.; a few bags limed Japan sold at 25s. Singapore *Pepper* is quiet on the spot, at 5½d. for fair, and sales of fair Alleppy have been made at 5½d.; the arrival market is easier; *White pepper* at auction was all bought in, including good bold Singapore in cases at 10d., and fair to good, in bags, 7½d. to 7¾d.; sellers on the spot quote 7½d. for fair Singapore, and 7¾d. for fair Penang. *Pimento* was steady in auction, fair selling at 2½d. *Chillies* were also steady, fine Nyasaland selling at from 36s. 6d. to 37s., and for a few fine large picked red Nyasaland *Capsicums*, 57s. was paid, and yellow cherries at from 50s. to 55s.; five packages Japan *Cassia* sold at 30s. 6d. for thin broken chips, and 19s. to 20s. for bark. *Mace* was quiet, and *Nutmegs* were easier. A parcel of 132 bales Zanzibar *Cloves* sold cheaply at auction, without reserve, fair, slightly stalky, realising 6½d. per lb.; good bright Penang, in cases, were bought in at 1s. 1d., and fair at 1s. per lb. Privately, the sales for delivery include January-March at 6¼d., March-May at 6¾d. to 6½d., and June-August at 6½d.; on Wednesday these prices were nominal in the absence of business, and to-day a small business has been done at 6¾d. for March-May.

SUGAR OF MILK.—In one quarter 65s. per cwt. net has been quoted this week, but in other directions holders maintain their previous quotations of 68s. to 70s. net, stating that supplies in quantity are difficult to obtain from the Continent.

TAMARINDS.—Good West Indian are scarce, no Barbados being on offer. For good Antigua 16s. to 17s. is asked in second-hands. In the drug-auction 25 barrels dry Antigua offered had been sold privately.

TURMERIC.—Privately retail sales of dull bulby to good Madras finger have been made at from 20s. to 25s. spot, and for Bengal 14s. spot is asked. Cochin split bulbs are slow of sale.

WAX, JAPAN.—Spot sales have been made privately at 57s. per cwt.

London Drug-auctions.

At the auctions of first and second hand drugs held to-day very little interest was shown except in the case of cardamoms and sarsaparilla, for which there was an excellent demand. Cape aloes brought steady prices. Asafetida was held at much above buyer's ideas of value. Arega and buchu were dull of sale, the latter being a trifle easier. Sumatra benzoin sold at valuations, but the tone was quiet. Ceylon ceca leaves were about steady, and for cardamoms there was an excellent demand all round at higher rates. Dragon's-blood was a shade easier, and the arrivals of gamboge have now eased prices. Honey was of no interest to-day. Ipecacuanha quite hung fire. Myrrh, although in plentiful supply, is firmly held. Rhubarb brought unaltered rats, although the article was quiet. Grey Jamaica sarsaparilla was dearer compared with the previous public sale rates, and the selection of beeswax

was unimportant. The following table shows the amount of goods offered and sold:

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Aloes—			Insect-flowers	20	0
Cape	47	47	Jalap	5	0
Socotrine	13	0	Kino	5	0
Ambergris (7½ oz.) ..	1	0	Kola	10	10
Ammoniacum	1	0	Lemon-juice (pn.) ..	1	0
Anised	95	0	Lime-juice (raw) ..	6	0
Anatto-seed	31	0	Manna	1	0
Arega	98	0	Mastic	17	0
Asafetida	214	18	Menthol	15	0
Balsam—			Musk-seed	1	1
Copaiba	1	0	Myrrh	71	*5
Tolu	9	3	Nux vomica	17	0
Belladonna-root ..	12	12	Oil—		
Benzoin—			bay	1	*1
Palembang	79	0	caraphor	17	0
Siam	12	2	cinnamon-leaf ..	10	0
Sumatra	75	26	clove	2	0
Buchu	76	7	copaiba	1	0
Calumba	139	99	eucalyptus	73	0
Canella alba	8	0	lemongrass	12	0
Cannabis indica ..	11	0	orange (W.I.) ..	1	0
Cardamoms	377	295	peppermint	10	0
Cascarilla	22	0	rose	1	0
Cashew-nuts	15	0	wintergreen	1	0
Chamomiles	4	0	Olibanum	39	26
Chillies (Zan.) ..	25	0	Opium	1	0
Chiretta	6	0	Orange-peel	101	*1
Cinchona	130	£6	Orris	10	0
Civet	17	0	Patchouli	90	25
Coca-leaves	44	22	Putcha-leaves ..	10	0
Cochineal	70	0	Rhubarb—		
Colocyth	18	1	China	69	10
Coriander-seed ..	78	40	English	3	0
Croton-seed	16	0	Sarsaparilla	60	41
Cubebs	18	18	Scabiac	22	0
Cumin-seed	25	0	Seedlac	70	0
Cuscut	16	0	Senna		
Cuttle-bone	106	0	Alex. pods	3	0
Dill-seed	47	0	Tinnevely	148	100
Dragon's-blood ..	20	6	Sticklac	29	0
Ergot	17	5	Strophanthus ..	43	0
Euphorbium	58	13	Styrax	2	0
Fennel-seed	47	*12	Tamarinds (E.I.) ..	120	0
Galls (Pers)	44	0	Tamarinds (W.I.) ..	26	*26
Gamboge	11	1	Tonka beans	4	0
Gentian-powder ..	9	0	Turmeric	177	*4
Gum arabic	132	0	Wax (bees')—		
Honey—			Aden	23	0
Californian	144	0	Australian	13	*1
Italian	5	0	China	1	0
Jamaica	7	0	East Indian	90	0
Ipecacuanha—			Jamaica	11	3
Cartagena	19	0	Morocco	21	0
Johore	5	1	West Indian ..	2	2
Rio (Matto Grosso) ..	12	0	Zanzibar	43	0
Rio (Minas)	15	0	Wax (Japanese) ..	20	0

* Sold privately.

ALOES.—Cape steady, good to fine bright hard firsts selling at from 25s. 6d. to 27s., fair seconds 22s. to 25s., and common drossy 17s. per cwt. Socotrine in kegs was held at 80s.

ANNATTO.—For fair bright Madras seed 6½d. was wanted.

ARECA are obtainable at 22s. 6d. per cwt. for fair Ceylon.

ASAFETIDA was too highly limited to effect business, and the best lots were bought in at from 80s. to 90s. for pale and yellow partly blocky almonds; fair almondy block, slightly softish, sold at 50s. subject; pale greyish almondy block, 45s.; rather sandy, but pinky block, 45s.; and soft to very soft and wet in cases, 40s. per cwt.

BALSAM TOLU.—Part of the parcel offered had been sold privately for good hard to slightly drossy in large tins. For 3 tins of drossy 7d. per lb. subject was paid.

BENZOIN.—Rather quiet, but steady. Fourteen cases of fair Sumatra seconds with small to medium almonds sold at from 7l. 15s. to 7l. 17s. 6d. per cwt., and for twelve cases of good Sumatra seconds from 8l. 10s. to 8l. 15s. was paid. Ordinary seconds were bought in at 6l. 5s. For a pile of twenty-seven cases of medium Palembang seconds a bid of 37s. 6d. is to be submitted. Two cases of pale sifted pea and bean size Siam of fair flavour sold without reserve at 13l. 10s. per cwt. For six cases of brown Siam siftings a bid of 47s. 6d. was refused, the lot being taken in at 55s.

BUCHU.—The large supply offered was mostly bought in,

a few bales of good green round leaves selling at $7\frac{1}{2}d.$, or $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. lower. Three bales of ordinary broken yellow sold without reserve at $5d.$ per lb.

CALUMBA.—A parcel of 99 bags of fair natural sorts slightly wormy sold at from $17s.$ to $18s. 6d.$ per cwt., being easier.

CARDAMOMS were in excellent demand at an all-round advance of $1d.$ to $2d.$ per lb., and occasionally more for fine. The following rates were paid: Ceylon-Mysore—Extra fine pale bold long picked, $3s. 4d.$ to $3s. 8d.$; good pale bold, $2s. 4d.$ to $2s. 11d.$; medium and bold pale smooth, $1s. 9d.$ to $2s. 1d.$; bold medium palish, $1s. 5d.$ to $1s. 7d.$; small and medium pale, $1s. 2d.$ to $1s. 4d.$; bold pale splits, $1s. 1d.$ to $1s. 2d.$; heavy splits, $10d.$ to $1s.$; small pale, $9\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $11\frac{1}{2}d.$; brown and split, $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $10d.$ per lb.; seed, $11d.$ to $1s. 3d.$, according to quality; good *Native* wild (7 cases), $2s.$ Ceylon-Malabar—Small and medium, $1s. 2d.$; small, $10d.$; brown and split, $9\frac{1}{2}d.$; and seed, $1s. 1d.$ Tellicherry—Bold medium heavy unbleached, $1s. 5d.$; medium, $1s. 2d.$ to $1s. 3d.$; and small ditto, $1s.$ Thirty-six cases of the latter changed hands at these prices.

CASCARILLA.—Fair, part silvery quill, was offered at $65s.$, and sittings at $35s.$

COCA-LEAVES.—About steady; 14 cases Ceylon sold at from $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $11\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. for fair greenish and $8d.$ for brown. A further 6 cases good green Ceylon sold at $11d.$, subject.

COCHINEAL.—The offerings were bought in, including Teneriffe silver and blacks at $1s. 9d.$ to $1s. 10d.$ per lb.

CROTON-SEED.—A bid of $30s.$ is to be submitted for 16 bags of dark.

CUBEBS.—A parcel of 18 bags sold without reserve at $32s.$ for fair genuine berries, slightly damaged.

DRAGON'S BLOOD.—Twelve cases fine bright reboiled lump realised $10l.$ per cwt. Eight cases of Zanzibar drop were offered, of which two had been sold privately.

ERGOT.—Lower. Five bags of small sound Russian sold without reserve at from $11d.$ to $11\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb., net weights, no discount. Ten bags greyish Spanish were held at $1s. 10d.$ For Russian for shipment lower prices are quoted.

GAMBOGE.—Rather lower, owing to the arrival of about a ton. A case of good unsorted Siam pipe, slightly blocky, sold at $23l. 10s.$ per cwt.

GUM ARABIC.—Pale Soudan sorts were held at from $30s.$ to $32s. 6d.$, and for red Aden $22s.$ was wanted.

HONEY.—The selection of Jamaica on offer was poor and uninteresting, no sales being effected; pale setting in barrels was held at $25s.$, and common dark in tierces was bought in at $21s.$ Part set and part liquid Californian was bought in at $31s.$ A fair quantity of white set Honolulu has arrived, for which from $30s.$ to $32s.$ per cwt. is asked, according to quality.

IPECACUANHA.—The deliveries from the Crutched Friars warehouse so far this month amount to 37 bales of all descriptions. In auction there was practically no demand, and prices, if anything, tended easier. Only 1 bale of East Indian (Johore) was disposed of, the price being $7s. 3d.$ In another instance good Johore was held at $7s. 6d.$, a bid of $7s. 4d.$ being refused. Minas was bought in at $7s. 2d.$ to $7s. 6d.$ per lb. For Cartagena $6s. 6d.$ was refused, and other lots were bought in at from $6s. 6d.$ to $7s. 2d.$ Good bright Rio (Matto Grosso) was limited at $7s. 6d.$ and dull grey at $7s. 3d.$ per lb. Since the sale $7s. 6d.$ has been paid for Matto Grosso.

KOLA.—Ten bags fair West Indian sold at $3\frac{1}{2}d.$

MUSK-SEED.—A bag of St. Lucia realised $2d.$ per lb.

MYRRH is plentiful supply, but there is little demand. Fair Aden sorts are obtainable at $95s.$ per cwt.

OIL, CINNAMON.—Leaf was limited at $2\frac{1}{4}d.$ per oz. for Ceylon.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—Private prices for Cochin are steady at from $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ per oz.

OIL, PEPPERMINT, is firm, with a good business in Japanese dementholised to arrive at $4s. 3d.$ c.i.f. for Kobayashi, and $4s. 1\frac{1}{2}d.$ c.i.f. for outside brands for February-March shipment. On the spot $4s. 3d.$ has been paid for Yawaza. American is also firm at from $10s. 9d.$ to $11s. 6d.$, according to brand. The U.S.A. has been in the market

as a buyer of Japanese oil this week, and several stories are current in regard to the forthcoming crops, it being reported that the American crop will be extremely short, and it is said that, owing to the famine in Japan, the Government has decided that a considerably larger area in future must be devoted to the planting of food-staples.

OLIBANUM.—A parcel of 24 packages, apparently consisting of pea-sized drop and a few garblings, had been sold privately. Two packages of siftings realised $15s.$ per cwt. without reserve.

PATCHOULI.—A fair quantity from Singapore and Penang was limited at $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. for ordinary matted. For twenty-five bales of sea-damaged, "for account of whom it may concern," without reserve from $\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $1d.$ was paid.

RHUBARB.—Steady, but quiet. Two cases medium round Canton with three-fourths good pinky colour sold at $1s. 4d.$, and for two cases, round and flat pickings with three-fourths good colour, $1s. 1d.$ per lb. A case of small round High-dried (Shensi character) well trimmed, with three-quarters good pinky fracture, sold at $1s. 1d.$, and for four cases round horny High-dried with half pinky and half grey and dark fracture $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ was paid.

SARSAPARILLA.—Very firm. A string of 17 bales of grey Jamaica, which were put on show at the last moment, practically all sold, subject to buyers' approval, at from $1s. 11d.$ to $2s. 1d.$ per lb., the quality being quite up to the usual standard. Privately there has been extreme scarcity, and a bale or two have been sold at $2s. 3d.$ per lb. Native Jamaica is now arriving more freely, but the 20 bales to-day sold at steady prices, including good red to yellow sound at $1s. 1d.$, fair red at $11d.$ to $11\frac{1}{2}d.$, and sea-damaged at $9d.$ per lb. Nine bales of rough mixed Lima and Guayaquil were offered, and a bid of $1s. 3d.$ was refused.

SEEDLAC.—Good bright orange from Bombay was limited at $8l. 10s.$ per cwt.

SENNA.—Tinnevely sold at unaltered rates, from $\frac{3}{4}d.$ to $1d.$ per lb. being paid for ordinary small brown speckly leaf. Medium greenish sold at $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per lb. For pods $1d.$ per lb. was paid. Boldish green leaf was bought in at $3d.$, a bid of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ being refused.

STROPHANTHUS in heavy supply and neglected. Fair to good green Kombe was bought in at from $2s. 6d.$ to $2s. 9d.$ per lb.

WAX, BEES'.—Practically nothing was sold. Three packages Jamaica sold at $7l. 7s. 6d.$ per cwt. for fair and a case of yellow Grenada also sold at $7l. 7s. 6d.$ A cask of Australian sold privately at $7l.$ A large quantity of unbleached Bombay was offered and bought in: sales privately have been made at $5l. 15s.$

Austrian Chemical Trade.

The coming into operation of the new commercial treaty between Germany and Austria-Hungary on March 1 was preceded by the accumulation of a large quantity of German goods on the Austrian frontier. The German chemical-trade is affected by the new treaty, the duty on coal-tar colours, for instance, having been increased from the equivalent of $1s. 6\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $16s. 8d.$ per cwt. In view of this fact there has been every incentive in Austria to suggest the establishment of new chemical-works, especially for the manufacture of coal-tar colours. Some six different schemes for the erection of works for this purpose have been brought forward. It is understood that the particular project recently discussed under the auspices of the Austrian Credit-Anstalt has now become prominent, although the bank is said to desire the participation of foreign firms, apparently German, in the execution of the scheme.

The U.S. and German Tariff.

The U.S. Treasury Department has published a number of amended Customs regulations agreed upon in consideration of Germany's continuing to impose minimum duties on American goods. The Government agents abroad are instructed to consult chambers of commerce in estimating the value of goods to be exported to the United States, and it is further provided that the "consulating" of goods must be done in the district where they are purchased or manufactured. If this regulation is not complied with, the cost of transport to the place where they are "consulated" must be added to the declared value of the goods. The Board of Appraisers in New York has been ordered to give open hearings to reappraisement cases whenever it can do so without prejudicing public interests.

Correspondence

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. Publication of letters does not imply our agreement with the arguments or approval of the statements therein. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects presumably of interest to our readers generally. Letters received after the early posts on Wednesday cannot as a rule be dealt with in the current week's issue.

BUSINESS INFORMATION.—We have very full records of the makers or agents for articles and products connected with the chemical and drug trades, and supply information respecting them by post to inquirers. Inquiries regarding any articles which cannot be traced in this manner are inserted under "Information Wanted."

What is a Medical Prescription ?

SIR,—It is, of course, absurd to criticise the English of an Act of Parliament, but I really wish to know the meaning of two expressions in the new Pharmacy Bill. What is a "medical prescription"? Is it a prescription written by a legally qualified medical practitioner, or is it a prescription "relating to the art of healing" (see Walker's Dictionary)? And what are we to understand by the words "for the purpose" in line 7 of Clause 4 of the Bill, as printed by you? They mean absolutely nothing, but I presume that they connote something in the brain of the person who drew the Bill.

Yours, etc.,
Epworth, March 9. C. C. BELL.

Dental and Medical Practice.

SIR,—The editorial under the above heading in your issue of March 10 is a timely article, which I would strongly urge all chemists to act upon, and at once. With special regard to dental practice by chemists, I have always been of opinion that the Chemists' Defence Association is the correct body to fight our battle, and I believe they will do so; but I should judge that they will require a mandate from all chemists interested in dental work, and also a guarantee fund. All dental chemists should immediately combine; not one should hang back, else he may wake up to find his livelihood gone. I would suggest that we combine, say, under the Chemists' Defence Association or the *C. & D.*, each of us paying in what we can afford for a special fund to be set aside in the names of trustees for the specific purpose of preserving the rights of dental practice by chemists. The *C.D.A.* has its offices in London, which is more convenient than offices in the country, it is known to us, has done good work, and possesses our confidence. The fund created would be available at any time, and Mr. Glyn-Jones, who knows the trade so well, would be in touch with the best leaders in the legal profession, so that we should have confidence in looking forward to success. I would suggest a trust fund—say, up to 5,000*l.* The more members the better: 2,500 members at 2*l.* would be better than 1,000 at 5*l.* or 500 at 10*l.* each. I feel sure that many would be willing to pay much more than 10*l.* if required, but our greatest strength is in numbers. I have a scheme for the establishment of the status of "dental chemists" which I hardly think it advisable at the present moment to make public, but if we get a good trust fund and executive my scheme and any others could be discussed, trimmed into working shape, and brought before the correct authorities—if possible, before the Medical Acts Amendment Bill comes before Parliament.

I would most strongly urge all dental chemists to send a postcard to you briefly stating their views and what they would be prepared to pay in to the trust fund.

You would then, I hope, undertake negotiations with the *C.D.A.* or take charge of the fund, whichever is thought desirable by the members.

Yours truly,

H. E. CULLWICK

Queen's Chambers, Wolverhampton.

SIR,—I am glad to see from last week's *C. & D.* that you have possibly raised an interest among chemists in the Incorporated Society of Extractors and Adaptors of Teeth. Since my membership I have been anxious to get the *C. & D.* on our side, with a view to obtaining further support to a very powerful organisation for the protection of unregistered practitioners—as evidenced by the great number of members and the active canvass among the present Parliament, and also by blocking the Bill several times in last Session [It has not been in Parliament yet.—EDITOR]—are sure indications that we have no intention of being wiped out. In my opinion it behoves those chemists who are interested to any extent in the teeth-business to go seriously into the matter of joining as soon as possible; for chemists form a large proportion of non-curriculum men, who, it is acknowledged, perform half the dental work in the British Isles. All particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, at 62 Market Street, Manchester, or the Branch Secretary, at 48 High Road, Kilburn, N.W.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. HOLLOWAY,

Chairman of the London and Southern Counties Branch.

Southend-on-Sea.

SIR,—The letter on the amendment of the Dentists Act by "Chemist-Extractor" recalls a conversation I had with a L.D.S., R.C.S.Edin. recently. He said it was a good tip for a chemist to get out a plate announcing dental work—*e.g.*, artificial teeth, etc.—as such persons would be registered, or likely to be registered. It seemed that they were willing to admit those at present engaged in practice, if by doing so they could strengthen their claims.

Yours truly,

ANOTHER CHEMIST-EXTRACTOR. (244/47.)

Companies v. Individuals.

SIR,—Mr. Mavor, of Boots, Ltd., should be grateful rather than otherwise to those men who have preferred to remain chemists rather than become assistants to company stationers, picture-framers, fancy dealers, and so-called up-to-date cash chemists. The anti-store feeling in the trade has compelled Boots, Ltd., to pay their qualified chemists the salaries they do. If all the qualified men in the country had been as ready as Mr. Mavor to sell their services to these general stores, and to sink their individuality in company trading, Boots, Ltd., and other similar companies, with their enormous capital, could have bought their qualified chemists in the cheapest market, as Mr. Mavor tells us they can buy their drugs, etc. In spite of Boots, Ltd., with their enormous capital, their extensive advertising, their central positions, etc., there are still men in the trade who run businesses themselves, and who make their businesses pay, and there are still people who appreciate the personal attention and advice they can get from their chemist, and who prefer the methods of the individual chemist, although they may be old, to the cheap, slipshod, "next, please," methods of the modern store. That there is something in this personal attention is evident, otherwise how is it that a branch business is seldom a success? When the Minor schedule includes picture-framing, bookbinding, how to buy envelopes, etc., it may meet with Mr. Mavor's approval. Other subjects, such as chemistry, pharmacy, and materia medica, would appear to be very secondary considerations in qualifying as "one of the tribe of Jesse."

The Pharmaceutical Society may not be perfect, but Mavor and Jesse won't improve it. Mr. Mavor informs us that the Pharmacy Bill is useless; then why did Mr. Boot quake, threaten, and issue a manifesto? Is Mr. Mavor wiser than his master? If Mr. Mavor's ambitions soar no higher than to be one of the tribe of Jesse—well, let him stick to his bookbinding and his picture-framing, but why trouble himself about reforming the Pharmaceutical Society? Heaven help the chemist when Jesse and his tribe run it!

A CHEMIST. (245/11.)

Carriage of Condensed Milk.

SIR,—I have received the following from the Board of Trade:

Sir,—With reference to the application made by the railway companies for the inclusion in Class 5 of the statutory classification of merchandise traffic, of the entry "Condensed or compound preparations (other than preparations of milk and flour) for human food, e.o.h.p." I am

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directed by the Board of Trade to state that they have informed the railway companies that the application will not be proceeded with.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HERBERT JEKYLL.

Yours faithfully,
W. S. GLYN-JONES, Secretary P.A.T.A.
London, E.C., March 12.

Modern Business Methods.

SIR.—In my letter in your last week's issue I quoted Jay Mack to the effect that "not one qualified man in 2,000 ever has money to invest." This should be "ever has 500*l.* to invest."

Yours truly,
CALEDONIA. (247/6.)

SIR.—I did not say that I considered "Another Jay's" letter exceptionally clever and logical, etc. What I said was that, in view of the fact that Jay Mack is held up to be a man of more than average resource and brain-power, we naturally expected his reply to his criticiser to be an exceptionally clever and logical one, whereas it consisted chiefly of vulgar abuse against the individual who ventured to differ from him. With regard to the business returning 300*l.* being worth 100*l.*, I may say that such a business would be unworkable (except at a loss) and unrealisable—in fact, it would be a "white elephant." It does not follow that a business is worth value of stock and fixtures, if there is no business to be done.

Yours truly,
TOMMY ROT. (244/72.)

SIR.—"Another Jay" has gone back to his perch, where I hope my separated balance-sheets will follow him. . . . As for brushes, soap, and other cleaning-materials, "they are all in the bill," but being a short article they could not be itemised. If "Caledonia" lives in the North, or even in the sunny South, he must not forget that I live in the smoky Midlands. Cold clay soil and heavy rainfall compel big fires eleven months of the year, and 10*l.* coal-bills alone are quite common among my friends. At first glance at his 5*l.* coal and light bill I thought he had been lying in bed to save coal and gas, but doubtless the climatic conditions account for his very low expenses. His criticism is helpful, because it shows my estimate to be a liberal one. Doubtless his fellow-assistant was either Scotch or Welsh. No other race has so much pertinacity and pluck, combined with equally remarkable habits of thrift. "Saving" is a science but little understood by the modern drug-assistant. I have known men have spells of saving, then spells of spending, and return to their saving again soured and disappointed. In that state they are useless for good work. The Socialists preach "no thrift," but "higher wages," and they try to rouse discontent among employes to demand higher wages. Contented men with thrifty habits are good servants, whose wages will rise automatically. I wrote for young men; but this becomes also a master's question, for wages are quite high enough already, on the average, for the value given. If men demand wages instead of practising thrift, the masters' already small profits will still further dwindle.

JAY MACK.

Legal Queries.

See the "C. & D. Diary, 1906, for much legal information about all trade matters. In any circumstance not covered by the articles therein, state the case explicitly with all particulars and submit to the Editor.

Persecuted (246/27).—Reduced to the plainest terms, the facts which you submit mean that a firm of registered druggists employ a pharmaceutical chemist, use the title "dispensing chemist," and the pharmaceutical chemist compounds and dispenses medical prescriptions. Both are acts by the firm, and both are illegal. If the pharmaceutical chemist is a partner, and not an employé, the acts are still illegal on the part of the firm. The pharmaceutical chemist's qualification does not cover the firm.

Inquirer (246/62).—The preparation which you mention is a liquid vesicating preparation of cantharides, and as such is a scheduled poison. It cannot be sold by an unqualified person.

C. W. (241/64).—If you can prove that the treatment of the infectious case was undertaken by the medical man in his official capacity you have a *prima facie* claim against the local authority for the supplies ordered by the medical man. You must be able to produce satisfactory evidence in support of your claim.

H. C. (247/74).—"Asthma and bronchitis lozenges" is a title which makes the preparation liable to medicine stamp-duty.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

Coburg (Johannesburg) (238/2).—BOOKS ON SIGHT-TESTING.—Of the books named in the *Diary* bibliography Druiff's and Taylor & Baxter's are the ones we recommend you to obtain. If you have a copy of *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary* for 1900 by you you should study the article on "Spectacles" which is there given.

S. W. B. (241/12).—Wash the pipe with methylated spirit and dry in a kitchen oven.

Subscriber (247/74).—PRESERVING MILK WITH FORMALIN.—One teaspoonful of 40-per-cent. solution of formaldehyde is added to each 10 gals. of milk.

LOCK SALMON.—J. S. (247/59) says: "No satisfactory reply appears to be forthcoming as to what is intended, or supplied when inquired for. To-day I am told by a customer that 'lock salmon' is commonly sold in Staffordshire, that it tastes like vinegar, and that it may be given to a child five months old for a cough in doses of a tablespoonful. Is it possible that liquor ammon. acetatis has been corrupted into 'lock salmon'? But—a tablespoonful to an infant!"

F. E. B. (240/36).—We shall keep your suggestion in mind. Such articles have been printed in the *C. & D.*

Farr (241/48).—No case of injury resulting from the regular use of saccharin has been recorded so far as we are aware, and the objections you refer to are groundless, we believe.

Trade-marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. Dalton, Esq., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost £1, obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 28, 1906.)

"DIASTAFOR": for malt preparations. By Deutsche Diamalt Ges. m.b.H., Karlsplatz 6, Munich. 277,385.

"KREOCHYLE": for a liquid-meat product. By E. T. Malleon, Viaduct House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C. 278,509.

"VIROGEN" ("Viro" disclaimed); for a food for invalids and children. By R. Cowen, 15 Halfmoon Street, London, W. 278,782.

"NIGHTINGALE" and device thereof; for soap and candles. By J. Knight & Sons, Ltd., Silvertown, London, E. 276,267.

"TEXSO": for candles, soap, detergents, etc. By J. Knight & Sons, Ltd., Silvertown, London, E. 278,898.

Device of initials "I. & C." with heads of a Hindu and a Chinaman on the letters respectively; for candles, soaps, detergents, etc. By J. Burton & Sons, Ltd., Talbot Street, Nottingham. 278,927.

"PADOMULA" and circle and scroll devices; for camphorated chalk, dentifrices, toilet-powders, tooth-powder, and perfumery. By the "Matchless" Metal Polish Co., Ltd., Leeds Street, Liverpool. 278,091.

"CORONOL": for perfumery. By the Crown Perfumery Co., Sidney Road, Homerton, London, N.E. 278,114.

"TANINTA": for toilet articles. By Credvills & Co., Kingfield, Rye, Sussex. 278,394.

"BLOC HYALIN" (disclaimed) and label device of flowers and heads of a man and a woman; for a razor-irritation reliever. By L. C. Féret, 37 Rue du Faubourg Poissonnière, Paris. 278,539.

"A LA CORBEILLE FLEURIE" and signature "ED. PINAUD"; for a pomade. By Ed. Pinaud, 18 Place Vendôme, Paris. 278,540.

"SETABA": for perfumery. By F. W. Bates, 178 Chorlton Road, Brook's Bar, Manchester. 279,047.

"ETHOL": for a perfumed soap. By Parke Davis & Co., 111 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 279,078.

ASSISTANT or Branch Manager; 28; married; unqualified; experienced; good Counterman; permanency; disengaged. 199/6, Office of this Paper.

BRANCH, Dispenser or Locum; varied experience; Photography; Extractor, Prescriber, &c.; good references; at liberty. "Chemist," 2A Wallwood Street, E.

JUNIOR; 20; 4½ years' good Dispensing experience; good references; Liverpool or London preferred. "H. W.," 35 Oakdale Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

SURGERY Attendant, at liberty next week; Dispense, Bookkeep, Extractor, Dresser; 7 years present berth; temporary duty undertaken. Kedell, Wantage.

BRANCH Manager, Senior, Locum; 38 years; qualified; Extractor, Prescriber; married; experienced; satisfactory references. "Acris," 11 Pattison Street, Stepney.

MANAGER for good-class business; experienced, energetic, and reliable; Dispensing a speciality; 35; married; qualified. 195/24, Office of this Paper.

ASSISTANT; 28; unqualified; experienced; energetic; good references; disengaged April 8; outdoors preferred. Suckling, 6 Lewisham Road, Greenwich.

LOCUM-TENENS; qualified; 30; abstainer; references; disengaged April 2; engagements booked in advance. Wilkinson, 779 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield.

BRANCH Manager or Locum; experienced Prescriber; middle-aged; unmarried; permanency; country preferred. "J.," Fernleigh, Argyle Road, Anfield, Liverpool.

CHEMISTS' Housekeeper.—Working widow (43) desires place of trust; 9 years' reference; can furnish if necessary. "C.," 6 Musard Road, West Kensington.

DISPENSER (lady), good references, desires engagement; Hall certificate; experience in hospital and private practice; bookkeeping. Miss Taylor, Oxford Road, Wakefield.

IMPROVER; 19; first class Retail; 5 years' experience; excellent references; photo; Barnley, Accrington, or vicinity preferred. "Rhei" (196/10), Office of this Paper.

UNQUALIFIED; high-class Dispensing, Prescribing; 13 years' experience best houses; traveller; none offering under 35s. need apply; 27. 196/04, Office of this Paper.

MANAGER or Assistant Manager; qualified; married; good experience; knowledge of Photography, Homoeopathy, and Advertisement-writing. 194/19, Office of this Paper.

PHARM. Chemist (Aust.), Dispenser or Counterman; highest class; London experience; excellent record; abstainer; middle-aged; tall; active. "Sydney," 42 Cambridge Avenue, Kilburn.

ABROAD.—Competent Assistant (23), unqualified, desires situation abroad; Canada preferred, but not necessary. Full particulars, salary, &c., to "Aristol" (198/38), Office of this Paper.

UNQUALIFIED Assistant (27), 10 years' experience of the Retail Trade in London and provinces, desire situation; home or abroad; Wholesale, Retail, or as Traveller. 196/2, Office of this Paper.

QUALIFIED; aged 33; abstainer; hospital Dispenser last 9 years; previously varied Retail experience; good Prescriber; energetic; moderate salary. "Salol," 2 Weyside, South Street, Farnham, Surrey.

AN experienced and well-trained Chemist requires engagement in Analytical Laboratory, or in works; whole or part time; small remuneration; would not object to go abroad. 248/5, Office of this Paper.

COMPETENT Assistant; large and varied experience; smart, steady, and reliable; Dispenser, Counterman, Prescriber, Photography; London or suburbs; outdoors; unqualified. "Pyro," 80 City Road, Bristol.

QUALIFIED Chemist Optician (Sight-testing examination); 26; tall; 11 years' experience, 3½ years present situation; abstainer; Photography; South of England preferred; permanent or temporary. Togwell, 84 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey.

UNQUALIFIED Assistant or Branch Manager, now disengaged, desires permanency; skilful Extractor; good Dispenser and Counterman; abstainer; married; aged 30; undeniable references. Matthews, 39 Reedwood Street, Kennington Road, S.E.

GERMAN, 20½ years old, passed examination as Druggist, Amateur Photographer, with good notions of English language, seeks situation for about 4 months as volunteer in London Druggist's (with photo articles). Address, Heiner Scheib, Hilchenbach (Westf.), Germany.

CHEMIST.—A practical first-class Chemist, quick and accurate Dispenser, aged 37, talking fluently Italian, French, German, and moderately English, Spanish, and Russian, having been employed in first-class Pharmacies of Paris and International Pharmacies of Italy, desires engagement in England (preference London), in good Dispensing and Retail Pharmacy; excellent references can be given; very moderate salary expected. Address, Dr. P. A. Wodenissow, Via Carlo Alberto 205-207, Rosso, Geneva (Italy).

WHOLESALE.

WET Counterhand seeks situation; age 25. 30 Vivian Road, Victoria Park.

TRAVELLER, with good experience, seeks re-engagement; first-class references; guarantee. 196/29, Office of this Paper.

SITUATION desired, Wholesale; 16 years' experience; Wet preferred; disengaged. Baines, 2 Aynum Road, Kendal.

ADVERTISER (30 years) seeks situation, Wet or Dry; 10 years' Wholesale experience; good references. A., 78 St. Loy's Road, Tottenham.

AMERICAN gentleman desires representing house; lately with Horlick's Food Company; understands Exhibition work. 199/32, Office of this Paper.

ADVERTISER, 3 years' experience analytical chemistry, wishes appointment to learn Drug trade; aged 22; height 6 feet. Write, "E.," 98 Mildmay Road, London, N.

YOUNG man (22) desires position in good Wholesale house (London); accustomed to manufacturing and controlling staff, &c. "Abstainer" (195/1), Office of this Paper.

GENTLEMAN covering the whole eight Northern Counties and Scotland desires another good commission or agency; has well-established connection. 249/45, Office of this Paper.

REPRESENTATIVE desires engagement as Traveller or Interviewer; experienced in interviewing medical profession; disengaged. C., 84 Auerley Park, Auerley, S.E.

MANUFACTURERS' Agent, sailing shortly for Australia and New Zealand, requires additional agency; good connection; highest references. 200/25, Office of this Paper.

REPRESENTATIVE, large and old connection Northern Counties, desires to represent good firm in conjunction with his present firm. "Energetic" (197/27), Office of this Paper.

A CHEMIST will shortly be open to negotiate for a position in Wholesale; accustomed to manufacture of Lozenges, Capsules, Perles, &c. Address, 196/18, Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER; good connection Lancashire, N.W. Counties, Lincolnshire; Chemists, doctors; disengaged; good house only; first-class references; tall; 27. 196/4, Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER open; can increase return for good house; several years' successful travelling experience; connection; qualified; good record salesmanship. "Ferrum" (198/2), Office of this Paper.

SMART qualified Chemist, with thorough knowledge of the trade and good Salesman, is open to represent good Speciality or General house; salary or commission. Address, "Commerce" (50/51), Office of this Paper.

ESSENCES, Essential Oils, &c.—Advertiser—young, unmarried, inside and outside experience—wishes to correspond with good firm wanting Representative; well known on Lancashire ground. 195/12, Office of this Paper.

AS Traveller.—Gentleman with 13 years' good, sound, useful connection in 9 Northern counties of England and Scotland, well known, thoroughly steady, teetotaler, seeks re-engagement in Sundries or Specialities. 249/54, Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER desires to represent good firm; total abstainer, gentlemanly appearance; single; age 29; with 15 years' experience in the drug trade; plenty of energy and tact; best references. Address 197/32, Office of this Paper.

APPRENTICESHIPS.

A CHEMIST'S Brother, aged 17, with some knowledge of the business, wishes to be apprenticed in the South; indoors. "C. B.," 9 Cheltenham Place, Plymouth.

INLAND HEALTH RESORT.—Mr. Thresh, Chemist, Buxton, has an opening for well-educated youth as Apprentice; comfortable home, with good-class Dispensing business. Particulars on application.

College Note.

INTER-PHARMACY FOOTBALL LEAGUE.—The last fixture of the season was decided at Shepherd's Bush on March 10, the occasion being the replay between Muter's and the London College. Midfield play, interrupted by frequent excursions of the ball over the touch-line, was the rule for the first ten minutes, until the London forwards broke away and scored three successive goals. Jones being responsible for the first and Evans for the following two. After half-time Beaumont and Evans added another goal apiece to London's score, and the game ended as a win for London by five goals to *nil*. The Londoners are thus runners-up in the League, with a score of twelve points and a goal aggregate of thirty-six against fifteen. Throughout the season they have played altogether nineteen matches, winning fourteen, and scoring a total of sixty-nine goals against thirty-seven.

Coming Events.

Notices for insertion under this heading should be received by the Editor on Wednesday of each week.

Monday, March 19.

Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club, 36 York Place, at 9 P.M. Annual general meeting.

Tuesday, March 20.

Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association, Calvert's Café, at 8.15 P.M. Lantern-lecture by Mr. A. E. Beilby, "Impressions of Florence and Venice."

Bradford Chemists' Association, Royal Hotel, Darley Street, at 9 P.M. Lantern-lecture by Mr. P. H. Marsden on "Impressions of Pharmacy in Russia and Norway."

Leicester Chemists' Association, Turkey Café (opposite the Post Office), Granby Street, at 8 P.M., Whist-drive. Tickets (2s. each) may be had from Mr. G. E. Marfitt, Hon. Secretary, Infirmary Square, Leicester.

Wednesday, March 21.

Western Chemists' Association, Norfolk Square Hotel, London Street, W., at 9 P.M. Mr. C. A. Hill on "Misleading Trade-names."

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, North British Branch, 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 8.30 P.M. Evening meeting. Mr. Peter Boa will report on investigations undertaken at the request of the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council on "Pharmacopœial Ointments: (a) Paraffin, (b) Boric, (c) Phenol." Mr. W. S. Glass will read a paper on "The Official Aromatic Waters." Mr. D. B. Dott one on "The Solubility of Apomorphine Hydrochloride," and Mr. A. McCutcheon will show specimens of *Isotoma fimetaria* or water-flea.

Royal Microscopical Society, 20 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. Mr. C. F. Rousselet, "A Contribution to our Knowledge of the *Rotifera* of South Africa," and Mr. E. M. Nelson, on "The Resolving Limits for the Telescope and the Microscope."

Midland Pharmaceutical Association, Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Papers by Mr. G. E. Perry and Mr. Harold Dean.

Thursday, March 22.

Isle of Thanet Chemists' Association, Hotel Métropole, Margate, at 7.30 P.M. Mr. H. R. Gibbs, "Stray Notes on Continental Pharmacy."

London Chemists' Association, North London Branch, Midland Grand Hotel, Euston Road, N.W., at 3.30 P.M. Mr. J. H. Cuff, Hon. Secretary of the Society of Chemist-Opticians, on "What is a Sight-testing Optician?" There will also be discussions on co-operative societies and the P.A.T.A., and on the poisons regulations.

Leicester Chemists v. Wands Football Club, Western Park, Leicester. Kick-off at 2.45 P.M.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, Oxford Street, W., at 9 P.M. Dr. Atkin-Swan on "Oral Acidity."

A WHIST-DRIVE, promoted by the Leeds Chemists' Association, will be held at the Old Bank Restaurant, Commercial Street, on March 29 [not March 28 as previously arranged], at 8.30 P.M. Tickets (1s. 6d. each) may be had from Mr. W. T. Castelow, Hon. Secretary, 7 Queen Victoria Street, Leeds.

THE ANNUAL DINNER of the Thames Valley Chemists' Association will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant, W., on March 28. Dr. Rutherford, M.P., Mr. George Cave, M.P., and the President of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. R. A.

Robinson) are expected to be present. Tickets (6s. each) may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. J. Uglow Woolcock, 6 Western Promenade, Hounslow.

THE ANNUAL DINNER of the Isle of Thanet Chemists' Association is to be held at Ramsgate on April 5. Tickets (5s. each) can be had from Mr. E. Baily, Hon. Secretary, 9 Queen Street, Ramsgate.

P.M.V. AND DRUG-STORES ASSOCIATION.

The following report with reference to this Association has been circulated:

A meeting was held by the committee at the Mitre Hotel on December 6. Present, Messrs. Barnet, Childe, Eskerett, Clarkson, Smith, and Huntrods.

The committee discussed at length the future conduction of the Association, and it was decided that the working be carried out by the committee, and that the General Secretary specially devote his time to increase the membership of the Association, as this is of vital importance.

Further, that the General Secretary be asked to send down a detailed account of subscriptions received every three months, and his report. Also that he be instructed to make out a list of subscribers under the various towns up to date, and forward to the committee at his earliest convenience. It was further resolved that the General Secretary be instructed to make and forward a balance-sheet up to date, or to the annual meeting.

Also that printed matter and stationery be ordered by the committee.

Mr. W. J. Leggett (the General Secretary) informs us that no such resolutions can be passed in the absence of the Secretary. What the reference to the balance-sheet means is a mystery. Mr. Leggett adds: "Nothing of the kind was ever mooted at the general meeting, and most of the members outside Leeds are up in arms about it."

TO PRESERVE BRUSHES.—M. Georges Roy recommends that brushes left in drawers, or where they are liable to be attacked by insects, should be plunged into a strong (50 per cent.) solution of gum. Once dry and hard no insect can attack them, and a little hot water will render them saleable or serviceable at any moment.

IN DAYS OF OLD, before Louis XIV. and Napoleon I. centralised France, the "reception" of apothecaries at Paris and at Montpellier was not conducted on the same lines. In the latter town the apprentice followed his studies while serving his time, and received an "attestation-letter"—a diploma of proficiency which had its value outside the region. For students came from far and near to the famous city—François Pennin from Antwerp, Jean Wachtel from Strasbourg, and Jean Bernard Turrel (whose history has recently been unearthed by Dr. Dorveaux) from "Dijon in Burgundy." Turrel had already exercised his art in the principal towns of France when he went to Montpellier in 1645 and served six months with Moysé Chaneul (one of the four master-apothecaries of the town) "in all probity and modesty." After the half-year had elapsed the worthy four interrogated Master Turrel "on the theory as well as the practice" of pharmacy and declared him worthy of immatriculation at the "very famous University of Medicine of the aforesaid Montpellier." Here he not only "frequented the lessons and disputes" under M. Sanche, Reader ("Lecteur") of Pharmacy, but "assisted at the Anatomies, both public and private, executed by M. Jean Martet, Master Surgeon and Royal Dissector of the University aforesaid," and the "demonstration of Simples" (materia medica lectures) of "Monsieur Maistre Richer de Belleval." Turrel's "capacity and modesty having rendered each one satisfied and happy," he was awarded "the honours due to his labours" (*i.e.* the certificate of proficiency in question) on March 6, 1646. This certificate (after a preamble from which the above quotations are made) declares the "aforesaid Turrel to have been between all justly and praiseworthy named Abbé des Pharmaciens." The "Abbé" appears to have been a sort of Tribune annually elected by the apprentices and assistants to defend their interests. The Montpellier students thus elected one of their number called "King of the Scholars" until 1840, when, this title being suppressed, the terms "Procureur" and "Abbé" appear to have been regularly used.